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2

DIVINE STRAKE PROJECT

3

PUBLIC HEARING

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5

Held at Dixie State College, Dunford Auditorium

6

in St. George, Utah

7

January 18, 2007

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MS. NIELSON: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to begin this hearing. I'd like to welcome you to the first of two public hearings that Governor Hunstman is holding to provide individuals the opportunity to formally comment on the federal Divine Strake proposal. And I want to thank you all for being here today taking time to be with us.

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If you decide you want to speak or share your comments with us, this is very important. And I know sometimes it's very hard, but I want to extend my thank you to all of you for taking the time to be here and to provide comment.

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I'm Dianne Nielson. I'm the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. I'm a member of the governor's cabinet, and he's asked me to host these hearings so that there is an opportunity for public comment.

1 The governor isn't able to be with us today
2 here in St. George, so he's asked if I would host this
3 hearing. But I want you to know that his sincere
4 commitment and appreciation for your comments and your
5 involvement and the opportunity that you're taking to
6 be heard is very much appreciated by the government.

7 The governor is going to be able to attend a
8 second hearing to be held in Salt Lake City on January
9 24th from 5:30 to 8:30 at the capitol, Capitol West
10 Building in Room 135 West, and I'm sure that there will
11 be other individuals who will want to take an
12 opportunity at that time to speak.

13 Many citizens contacted the governor to let him
14 know that the sessions that were being held, the
15 information sessions that were being held weren't
16 sufficient to meet their needs for a public comment
17 opportunity.

18 As you are aware, there are public information
19 sessions that were held last week by the Defense Threat
20 Reduction Agency, DTRA, and the U.S. Department of
21 Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada
22 Site Office, on the proposed Divine Strake experiment
23 and the draft revised environmental assessment for that
24 project. The governor felt it was important that
25 people had an opportunity to speak in a public hearing.

1 And so we are here today.

2 We have a court reporter present. The governor
3 will include your comments which will all be
4 transcribed along with his letter by the end of the
5 public comment period which is February 7th. So the
6 record of your comments from the meeting tonight as
7 well as the record of the comments in Salt Lake will be
8 attached to the governor's letter.

9 And because they are public comments and
10 because there is a lot of interest in this issue, we
11 will also make them available. They will be posted on
12 the Department of Environmental Quality website along
13 with the governor's letter when he sends it. And the
14 e-mail address for DEQ or the website address for DEQ,
15 it's easy, www.deq.utah.gov.

16 So if you want to see a transcription of what
17 was talked about tonight, that will be the way to look
18 for to find it as soon as we pull these comments from
19 the governor letter and have submitted them.

20 If you want to speak tonight, I would ask you
21 to make sure that you have signed up on the sign-up
22 sheet that looks like this that's at the table at the
23 entrance to the auditorium. You don't have to sign up
24 if you're not planning to speak, but you're certainly
25 welcome to.

1 What I'm going to do tonight is to start at
2 the -- with the first individuals who have signed up
3 and move through that list in order that people have
4 requested an opportunity to speak. I will also provide
5 some time right at the very beginning for elected
6 officials at the federal, state and local level to
7 speak.

8 When I call your name, I would ask if you would
9 come down to one of the microphones at the bottom of
10 the stairs so we can make sure that we get all your
11 comments clearly. And I will read the name of the
12 individual whose turn it is to speak as well as the
13 next individual on the list so that you'll have a
14 minute to be prepared to come next.

15 I would also like to suggest that because there
16 are a number of people who have asked to speak tonight,
17 and because the hearing is going to go forward from now
18 through or up to 8:00 this evening, I want to make sure
19 we provide an opportunity for everybody who wants to
20 speak to do so.

21 So I'm going to ask that you limit the time of
22 your comments to begin with. And at this point because
23 of the number of people that are signed up, I'm going
24 to suggest that you take four minutes or less. I know
25 that that's like a pretty short period of time for some

1 of you. For some it sounds like a long period of time,
2 but I'd like to suggest that we limit it to four
3 minutes.

4 If you have something more beyond the four
5 minutes, I suggest that we would go through the list of
6 people who have requested time to speak, let them have
7 an opportunity to do so, and then we'll come back and
8 give you an opportunity if there is time after to add
9 additional comments.

10 I also want to remind you even though it didn't
11 fulfill the opportunity for a public comment, that the
12 federal agencies will be receiving written comments,
13 e-mail comments, and they have defined all of that
14 within their public notice of documents. So certainly
15 take advantage of those opportunities also.

16 At this time I'd like to ask if there -- I
17 don't see any on this list, but just to make sure I
18 haven't missed anyone, are there any federal, state or
19 local elected officials who would like an opportunity
20 to speak who are here?

21 SPEAKER: I'm signed up.

22 MS. NIELSON: Okay, maybe we didn't. Okay.
23 I'm sorry, are you Pat Cluff?

24 SPEAKER: I am.

25 MS. NIELSON: I apologize. I didn't recognize

1 the designation. Ms. Cluff, if you would like to come
2 forward, I'd like to give you an opportunity as I
3 indicated before to address the group first. And when
4 each of you speak, if you would please say your name
5 and if you're representing an entity, please indicate
6 that, so that we can keep track of that. Thank you
7 very much.

8 SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Pat Cluff. I'm the Mayor of
9 Springdale, and I have with me today a letter from the
10 town of Springdale. I won't read the whole thing, but
11 Springdale is requesting and in the very strongest
12 terms that the following action be completed before
13 detonation of the Divine Strake.

14 One, the public process be implemented wherein
15 the government's experts can be questioned on the
16 record; two, an independent team of experts being
17 engaged to review the government's findings regarding
18 the amount of radioactive material that may be
19 disbursed and could potentially impact the public.

20 I've read a little bit of the draft, and it
21 says that there is the possibility of an extremely
22 unlikely possibility that radioactive material will be
23 released. Where it could affect even one person in the
24 public, this test should be halted. Personally, I'd
25 like to add -- this is not from the town -- I would

1 like to say it is my hope that no person in the U.S. or
2 any other country will be harmed by Divine Strake now
3 or in the future.

4 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much.

5 SPEAKER: Question. You consider the
6 Democratic Party Chairman an elected official?

7 MS. NIELSON: Actually, the process that we've
8 used is to say elected officials. Have you already
9 signed up?

10 SPEAKER: Yes.

11 MS. NIELSON: Okay. I think we're going to get
12 to you if that would be okay. Thank you very much for
13 asking. I'd like to ask Eugene Bridges to come
14 forward, and I hope I'm pronouncing it correctly,
15 Paralee Eckman will be next.

16 SPEAKER: Question before I start.

17 MS. NIELSON: Certainly.

18 SPEAKER: Since we are only allowed four
19 minutes, I've got a short version and a long version.
20 Can we file our comments, the written comments,
21 afterwards?

22 MS. NIELSON: You certainly can. If you have
23 written comments that you'd like to give us to include,
24 I'd be happy to accept those and you can speak to the
25 short version.

1 SPEAKER: Thank you.

2 MS. NIELSON: Thank you for asking.

3 SPEAKER: Yes. I will address just the short
4 version. This is actually a comment that we filed with
5 the DEQ at the Las Vegas meeting, and I'll go through
6 that right quickly. One thing I should mention, I
7 guess to begin with, my wife and I, we are former
8 residents of Salt Lake City. Lived there from 1947 to
9 1998. And we lost a son, we believe, to the first
10 testing that was done. So that's what prompts us to
11 make comments.

12 Now, over a half century has elapsed since
13 nuclear testing of radioactive fallout began at the
14 Nevada Test Site on January 27, 1951. In that period
15 of time only a minuscule recognition through the
16 amended 1990 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act has
17 been acknowledged as the radiation exposure to United
18 States citizens within roughly a 300 mile radius around
19 the test site.

20 The government continues to ignore the extent
21 of the damage adversely and fatally affecting the
22 citizens, livestock, and the environment through a much
23 larger area of the west as well as certain areas
24 throughout the entire United States. To try to
25 implement any further testing of any kind at the Nevada

1 Test Site, regardless of whether it is nuclear or
2 nonnuclear is an insult to the intelligence of the
3 public. Although this has never been a deterrent in
4 the past.

5 Since the proposed tests supposedly involve
6 nonnuclear explosives, a very simple solution is to
7 perform the test at other test and firing ranges the
8 government has so that there will be no disturbance of
9 the irradiating materials such as would occur from the
10 Nevada Test Site.

11 And I need to make a comment at this point. I
12 talked with a geologist at the meeting in Las Vegas. I
13 proposed this very thing to him. And he said we can't
14 do that because Las Vegas, or not Las Vegas but the
15 Nevada Test Site has the type of limestone formation
16 where we will find bunkers and underground factory
17 structures. I find it rather interesting that's the
18 only limestone test site in the United States.

19 First of all, I find it interesting that all of
20 our adversaries only work with limestone.

21 Justification by government agencies for using the
22 Nevada Test Site is that the amount of irradiation the
23 fallout from the blast would be relatively minor. May
24 I refer to you some government studies and testimony
25 that indicates the danger of exposure to small amounts

1 of radiation.

2 First, studies done by Doctors John W. Goffman
3 and Arthur R. Tamplin in the mid 1960's and published
4 in May 1966 has a Lawrence Livermore Radiation
5 Laboratory document under the title Estimation of
6 Dosage to Thyroids of Children in the U.S. from Nuclear
7 Tests Conducted in Nevada during 1952 through 1957. It
8 concludes that there is probably no safe minimum
9 exposure level, and that the risk per unit of radiation
10 is greater at lower doses than at higher levels. This
11 position was further substantiated by researchers in a
12 one hour presentation on January 28th, 1970, before the
13 joint committee on the Atomic Energy chaired by Senator
14 Jeff Halcon.

15 Second, F. Peter Labasse, counsel for the
16 Public Health Service appeared before the 1979
17 congressional hearings in Salt Lake City and stated
18 there is no threshold level and no safe level of
19 radiation exposure.

20 I mentioned that our oldest son died, and he
21 was age seven, died in 1956, and I commenced a research
22 project to determine if there was a relationship to
23 fallout. And it does definitely appear that there is a
24 cause and effect.

25 One more paragraph. Until such time as the

1 government is willing to make a positive effort to
2 identify and compensate the many thousands of people
3 not covered by RECA who were wounded or killed by the
4 radiation from the 1951 to 1992 Nevada testing, there
5 is no way the government is going to have any
6 credibility with the American people. If indeed there
7 is no danger from the proposed test, the government
8 should be willing to establish a reserve of appropriate
9 funds and medical care in Nevada, Utah, Arizona for
10 anyone who can be affected by the test fallout. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Paralee Eckman and
13 next will be Cyril Noble.

14 SPEAKER: I'm Paralee Eckman, and I was born
15 here in St. George in 1934, and I lived here until the
16 year after we had been married in 1956. I'm the oldest
17 of three girls and both of my other sisters have had
18 cancer.

19 I'm speaking of results of this now. I don't
20 know technicalities. But during the years where those
21 tests were, we lived here. We qualified as
22 Downwinders. My one sister had cancer in 1975 and was
23 one of the first 11 to receive chemotherapy. My other
24 sister had full blown colon cancer in 2000 and went
25 through the six month cancer.

1 I also knew Arthur Groom who was my favorite
2 teacher in college. He was a geology teacher. He
3 became President of Dixie College later. He died of
4 Leukemia. I don't know how well the government
5 informed people, because he took his geology classes up
6 on top of the red hill to observe these interesting,
7 beautiful clouds that were being produced. And he was
8 one of the first that died.

9 One of my best friends in high school, Joanne
10 Taylor Workman, died of cancer also from this fallout.
11 And at that time St. George only had a population of
12 maybe 5,000 people. We have many, many more here now
13 who could be affected.

14 After 1956 we moved away for about 25 years and
15 then we moved back. During that time I heard now and
16 then of many people who had died of cancer. But I'm
17 not aware of many others because I wasn't living in
18 St. George. But my husband and I both qualified as
19 Downwinders were in that free cancer screening, and
20 it's just something that we lived through and it is
21 very real. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER: Madam Chairman Nielson, ladies and
23 gentlemen, on behalf of the Washington County
24 Democratic Party, we are opposed to the proposed Divine
25 Strake as it's presently planned. We support Matheson,

1 Congressman Matheson's editorial, guest editorial that
2 was in the Spectrum. The things he said in there are
3 exactly how we feel. And we support that. Also we
4 understand that Senator Bennett thinks similarly.

5 As you might not know, Madam Chairman, in the
6 last three years, 25 percent of the people who live in
7 Washington County have moved from other parts as you
8 know. And as you can tell, I have an accent. That
9 doesn't mean much because I've lived here for 35 years.
10 But there are people from the east coast, there is
11 people from California have moved here with the
12 assumption that this is a nice place to live, which it
13 is. And the sun is beautiful. But they didn't expect
14 this kind of a condition to arise.

15 We know, one of the things we know is that
16 700 tons of -- I call it muck, explosive material
17 cannot be lifted in an airplane to throw on an enemy.
18 We know the atomic bomb was one ton. So we can -- we
19 could raise that and send that. But we just feel that
20 it would be a harmful thing to do.

21 Let's not take a chance. Let's not take a
22 chance on peoples lives because, you know why, because
23 the government doesn't want to pay medical bills for us
24 even now for the people that have it. They won't want
25 to later on of course. No, sir. That's how they

1 operate. And also, too, this group of people that did
2 the dog and pony show that came around thinking that we
3 the people weren't going to speak up were mistaken and
4 here we are.

5 MS. NIELSON: Raymond Cyr, I believe and next
6 will by Stefan Andrews.

7 SPEAKER: Very close, Raymond Cyr retired
8 physicist, resident of Ivins. From reading a lot about
9 this, it's interesting to note the evolution of the
10 government agencies' positions on this from no problem
11 to, yes, somethings will be kicked up in the atmosphere
12 but it won't be very much. And if you read the record
13 and know the record, you know the stuff does not
14 distribute uniformly. It has hot spots as witnessed in
15 the situation with the sheep herd in the late 50s.

16 Wesler Polytechnic Institute on the east coast
17 or near the east coast one morning in their physics
18 class opened the window, did a radiation measurement
19 and it was hot. And it turns out that the Nevada Test
20 Site fallout material had made it clear to Winsler, New
21 York, and was making every water puddle where it rained
22 hot.

23 Nevertheless, if -- of course that's why I'm
24 opposed to them doing any kind of a test here and
25 keeping kicking up any of that dust. If they do so, my

1 other concern is I would like the Utah Department of
2 Environmental Quality to be all over the measurement
3 situation and be doing measurements when that test does
4 occur, if it does occur. I guess you could say this is
5 part of current principle would be distrust and verify.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. NIELSON: Next after Andrews will be
8 Richard Spotts.

9 SPEAKER: I am a recent person that came from
10 California as mentioned earlier to this state, actually
11 to this area, although I've lived in other areas of
12 Utah previously. One of the things that concerns me
13 here is that we certainly heard a lot of lies, I would
14 have to say very clearly, from the -- from this
15 department. They have just not been up front with us.
16 And I -- frankly because of that situation and because
17 of others I've seen over the years, I don't trust them.
18 And I don't know of anyone else, but I sure don't trust
19 them.

20 The second thing I'm concerned about is real
21 simple. Where does this lead to? Where does this go
22 from here? Do we go ahead and do additional nuclear
23 testing in the same site? Because where else would
24 they do it? It would have to be at the Nevada Test
25 Site. It wouldn't be anywhere else. They made it

1 clear they're not going to do it anywhere else.

2 And the third thing is real simple. What is it
3 for? They have told us it's for bunker busting. If I
4 read my news about the Iraq war and when we liberated
5 Kuwait, they used bunker busters in that period and
6 that sure did a good job of bunker busting. It was
7 pretty deep. So why are we doing it again? And that's
8 all I have to say, thank you.

9 MS. NIELSON: Next will be Liesa Swejkoski.

10 SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Richard Spotts. I'm a
11 St. George resident speaking as a private individual.
12 I'd like to thank Governor Huntsman for the hearing
13 tonight and next week in Salt Lake City.

14 I grew up in southern California at the time
15 when they were training us that if you saw a giant
16 bright flash of light in the classroom to immediately
17 drop to the floor and roll under your little wooden
18 desk. And if we realize that if you saw that blast
19 being under the wooden desk, it wouldn't do you much
20 good. There is like a 10,000 degree thermal shock.

21 But so I grew up in the era of the Cold War.
22 And I think many of us lived through all the period of
23 time especially with the Soviet Union where we were
24 constantly afraid, and of course the Cuban Missile
25 Crisis, of having a nuclear exchange that could change

1 the climate and cause massive deaths and massive
2 radioactivity around the world.

3 With the political collapse of the Soviet
4 Union, we feel like we have kind of a breather. And I
5 guess I would caution on that. I think this EA has to
6 be viewed on Divine Strake and the broader context of
7 the proverb that those who do not learn from history
8 are doomed to repeat it.

9 My overriding concern with the EA in this
10 context is that the Bush administration and the
11 neoconservatives clearly want to pursue a new
12 generation of bunker buster nuclear weapons, even
13 though that violates our international treaty
14 obligations with virtually all the other civilized
15 countries in the world under the nuclear
16 nonproliferation treaty.

17 So we have an administration that wants to
18 simulate a low yield nuclear explosion in the Nevada
19 because they can't do a nuclear detonation now because
20 of political and legal reasons. It's part of that
21 continuum. But if you read in the environmental
22 assessment, it's sort of like somebody with severe
23 myopia and blinders on, because it's only focused at
24 the micro level, not the macro level. When it talks
25 about cumulative effects, it only talks about

1 cumulative effects at the Nevada Test Site. Doesn't
2 talk about cumulative effects in terms of how this
3 could relate to a progression of a new era of nuclear
4 weapons and a new nuclear arms race.

5 What message does this send to the rest of the
6 world including the Iran and North Korea about what
7 they should be doing in terms of developing nuclear
8 weapons? So that whole broad concept is ignored. At
9 the very minimum from a very narrow legal standpoint, I
10 don't believe this environmental assessment can stand
11 or the finding of no significant impact can be properly
12 signed under the National Environmental Policy Act.

13 All you have to do is go to title 40 to the
14 Federal Code of Regulations Section 1508.27. You will
15 find the word significantly is defined in terms of the
16 context and intensity of possible environmental
17 impacts. If you find sufficient context and intensity,
18 you cannot assign a finding of no significant impact.
19 You must prepare an environmental impact statement
20 under the law.

21 I submit that if you look at Subsections 2, 4,
22 5, 6, 7 and 10 of that Section 1508.27 you will find
23 that there is no way the Department of Defense again
24 could properly get away with only doing an
25 environmental assessment on this Divine Strake. They

1 should at least have to do a full environmental
2 statement and look at the cumulative effects again in
3 the context of nuclear development and further nuclear
4 testing in this region. Thank you.

5 MS. NIELSON: Thank you.

6 SPEAKER: My name is Liesa Swejkoski,
7 S-W-E-J-K-O-S-K-I. I don't have any facts or figures.
8 I'm not representing anybody except myself and my
9 family. My husband is a basketball fan. And one time
10 I was looking at Sports Illustrated, and basketball
11 coach Bobby Knight said, and I quote, if a woman is
12 going to get raped, she might as well lay down and
13 enjoy it.

14 I feel that Washington County and Iron County
15 and counties in Arizona are being raped. And it
16 doesn't matter whether we are Democrat or Republican,
17 Libertarian or Communist, you have a body and it will
18 affect you. I saw my mother die from cancer. Every
19 week she lost another ability.

20 I don't want to have my children see me go
21 through this. Worse yet, I don't want to see my
22 children die of cancer or have thyroid problems. I do
23 not want my community as Guinea Pigs as the state was
24 used in the past. And that's all I want to say.

25 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Dick Simkins followed

1 by Carol Martin.

2 SPEAKER: I'm Dick Simkins. I'm a Navy
3 veteran. I've lived in southern Utah. Most of you
4 should know me. I appreciate this opportunity to
5 comment on this important issue. I lost to cancer a
6 grandfather and a great uncle. The government
7 financially reimbursed the family for their loss.
8 Their large sheep herd died, although due to unknown
9 causes, a few days after the tests. Now the sheep had
10 been on that range for almost a hundred years. This
11 caused a bankruptcy. No compensation. I have no
12 problem with the test as long as the wind is blowing to
13 Nevada or California. Utah soil has already received
14 our share of nuclear dust. Would this explosion take
15 place if the wind were blowing to the west? I think
16 not. Tests were cancelled when the wind was blowing to
17 the west. Why. Why were they cancelled.

18 MS. NIELSON: Carol Martin and next will be
19 Richard Hinkle.

20 SPEAKER: My name is Carol Martin and I'm a
21 resident of St. George. I'm not really representing
22 anybody, but in one way I'd like to think I'm
23 representing everybody. I came here to speak for so
24 many of the people that I think are uncomfortable or
25 nervous about speaking.

1 In addition to that, there is so many people
2 I've heard say why should I go. Why should I say
3 anything. It falls on deaf ears. Nobody is going to
4 listen. They're going to go ahead and do what they
5 want anyway. The whole thing is pointless. I think
6 there is a great deal of our population that feels that
7 way. So I think the people stand up and talk are not
8 representative of people that are really opposed to
9 this. I thank Governor Huntsman immensely for at least
10 giving us the opportunity to do that. I wish more
11 people had faith that it was effective.

12 My main concern is I think it's a hundred
13 percent irresponsible for a government agency to even
14 propose to do this, first of all without an
15 environmental impact study. There is no credibility of
16 anything that they say at all, anyway.

17 Number 2, I would be opposed to it regardless
18 of where the wind was blowing because all people are
19 people. The bottom line is there are risks, period.
20 There are risks. This is not risk free, and we should
21 not take risks with human life. Number one. Number 2,
22 I think this is totally unnecessary. Our computer
23 technology should allow us to study and do anything we
24 need to do without having to disturb soil and take
25 risks with life.

1 MS. NIELSON: Richard Hinkle followed by Betsy
2 Vaught.

3 SPEAKER: First of all, I'd like to thank the
4 State of Utah for allowing us to have an opportunity to
5 say whatever it is that we feel about it since our own
6 federal government won't allow us. I'm opposed to this
7 thing for many reasons as we've already heard.

8 I'm tired of the hypocrisy when they tell the
9 rest of the world you cannot do the same thing we're
10 attempting to do legally or illegally. I'm offended by
11 my own government for attempting this. We didn't
12 even -- they weren't even brave enough to put it in a
13 regular budget item that was hidden in the Department
14 of Defense budget so most of us wouldn't know about it.
15 And we found out about it the hard way, and it's
16 brought people out to complain about this.

17 For one, on the record I want to be voiced as
18 opposed to this whole concept. This is unnecessary.
19 There is nothing good that can come from this. Let's
20 just stop it. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER: My name is Betsy Fillmore Vaught, but
22 I notice that good friend of mine, Michelle Thomas,
23 just got here late. I would like to ask that you
24 listen to her and put me at the end of the list if
25 there is no time for me. Her message is more

1 important.

2 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much for doing
3 that.

4 SPEAKER: Thank you, Betsy. I didn't prepare a
5 statement, but boy, I have rambling in my head any day
6 of the week any hour of the day I do represent
7 Downwinders. It's not something that I'm really
8 excited and proud about. It wasn't my career goal.
9 I'm so pleased to see this many people here because I
10 want to say -- in the olden days there might be a few
11 of us here. And to see new faces of people who care
12 about the history and they care about the future, it
13 means so much to all of the Downwinders.

14 When one of the gentleman talked about the
15 environmental impact statement. We have done
16 environmental impact statements. They are called our
17 cemeteries all over Utah. I'm always profoundly
18 dismayed when I hear scientists or occasionally there
19 is a gentleman in town that will write in saying how
20 healthy a certain amount of radiation is for you and
21 liken it to Vitamin D in your milk and what not. I'm
22 glad you respond somewhat the way I do.

23 I want to write back, actually there has been
24 so many times I want to rise from my seat and hit
25 someone, but it isn't -- we know about it ourselves.

1 No amount of low level radiation over a period of time
2 is very, very dangerous and so does the National
3 Institute of Cancer.

4 What I would like to say is when this agency
5 says to us we know about the past, but this time it
6 will be different. This time we'll get it right.
7 We'll do it safely. I want to (huuuh), and let me tell
8 you why.

9 I don't want to be really political, but I
10 can't help but just review if you will the last few
11 years the things that have happened on our highest
12 level of government in America. Just think about it.
13 I don't know a man that both Republicans and Democrats
14 revere more than Colin Powell. They sent him to the
15 United Nations with a booklet 40 times as thick as the
16 one that the people handed out to us the other night.
17 He went before the UN with flawed information, and he
18 made a fool out of himself. It was tragic because he
19 was the face of America, and we respected him as well.

20 What we learned from that is that it doesn't
21 matter what a government agency says, it doesn't matter
22 how top level their scientists or how informed they are
23 and what their facts are. They're only human beings
24 and they make mistakes. And sometimes they yield on
25 the side of error in an effort to appease the highest

1 administration.

2 I want -- I don't believe for a minute that
3 this is safe. And I don't believe that -- they can
4 send me books out the ying-yang to read, and you know
5 what, I'm never going to believe. It reminds -- the
6 day this mushroom cloud looms up, you'll see George
7 Bush hug someone and say good job.

8 Thank you so much for being here and for
9 writing your letters. I still believe, I still believe
10 that we have -- we will have some impact on this. And
11 I will go out on this note. If we don't, if we do lose
12 this battle, I promise you'll never see me again. I'll
13 fade into the sunset. I'll say I guess we'll have to
14 give the democracy to Iraq because we're not going to
15 get it here.

16 MS. NIELSON: Claudia Peterson and following
17 Claudia will be Donna Williams.

18 SPEAKER: I hate to follow that. My name is
19 Claudia Peterson, and I'm here representing myself and
20 possibly my grandchildren. This is the last place on
21 earth I want to be today. I've been fighting this
22 issue for years, and it comes with a lot of heartache
23 and a lot of sorrow.

24 Starting I'll give you a brief history. My
25 father-in-law was a uranium miner, died of lung cancer.

1 His wife died 37 years later from the same lung cancer
2 he was exposed to. My father died from a brain tumor.
3 I lost my 36-year-old sister from melanoma. My
4 six-year-old daughter died from neuroblastoma.

5 When my sister died, she had six small children
6 ages 14 to nine months. Right now her oldest child in
7 her early 30s is battling colon and abdominal cancer.
8 My brother who has some children in their 20s, several
9 of them have had melanoma.

10 What happens is they have done the study, they
11 just chose to ignore them. Studies have been done.
12 They have been told that low level radiation exposure
13 will go on and on and have a snowballing effect in our
14 families which we're seeing.

15 I work at the hospital, and I see it everyday.
16 It's not just the cancers. Utah has the highest rate
17 of MS in the nation. It's all the autoimmune illnesses
18 that come along with it. When I went to the dog and
19 pony show the other night, I asked several people about
20 the testing that went on until 1992. They were still
21 doing controlled releases up until 1992. That a couple
22 of accidental events, Mayberry and Mighty Oak, that
23 they tried to blame on the Soviet Union, Chernobyl when
24 that one happened. When I was asking one of the women
25 who worked on this assessment, environmental assessment

1 about that, she said we don't know that history. We
2 don't know. We know about Mayberry and Mighty Oak.

3 But I think you're doing the environmental
4 study and you don't know the history of the test site,
5 and I'm always surprised that we always have to fight
6 about this. And my husband says why do you continue to
7 be surprised. We start to get a breath of fresh air,
8 and we think we've done something and it slaps us in
9 the face. I don't think we should have to fight so
10 hard to live a happy, healthy life.

11 MS. NIELSON: Donna Williams followed by
12 William Cram.

13 SPEAKER: I'm Donna Williams, and I represent
14 myself and my family, and I'm a U.S. citizen and
15 resident of St. George, Utah.

16 And I believe that instead of a Statue of
17 Liberty we need a statue of responsibility on the west
18 coast to remind ourselves that this comes with liberty.
19 Responsibility comes with liberty. And I believe that
20 this whole test should be cancelled. And I also
21 believe, and I'm not expert, but if technology can
22 project the results of the Strake experiment and to
23 determine the radiological dose to the public, then
24 they can project the effects that Strake would have
25 through computer simulation and calculation without

1 risking peoples lives.

2 MS. NIELSON: William Cram followed by Edward
3 Southwick.

4 SPEAKER: I'm William Cram, and I was a
5 radiological aboard ship. I know all about the
6 radiation. And the problem we got with radiation is
7 that the half life is a very, very long time. I
8 couldn't find my book that had 130 some pages. I was
9 the only radiological monitor aboard my particular
10 ship, and it's ridiculous that we're letting this go
11 on. I'm concerned that when they go for this strike,
12 that they are going to raise some more radioactive area
13 and put it into the atmosphere. This really bothers me
14 a lot. I think we ought to fight this like there is no
15 tomorrow. Like I say, being a radiological monitor guy
16 aboard ship, I know all about it. I've got a book
17 that's 130 some pages on it, and I totally disagree
18 with this. Thank you.

19 MS. NIELSON: Edward Southwick followed by Lois
20 Iverson.

21 SPEAKER: Yes. I'm Edward Southwick of --
22 resident of St. George here speaking as a private
23 citizen. I attended the meeting the other day, too,
24 and it's of course my strong belief and obviously the
25 burden of proof needs to be on the government. And the

1 burden of proof, the first, the main point is the
2 sampling that they did the environmental impact report.
3 Either it was done by people researchers, commissioned
4 by themselves which is like these tobacco companies
5 commissioned medical doctors that tell us how good
6 tobacco was for our health. It's ridiculous to believe
7 any type of report commissioned by them. Any type of
8 report that's been commissioned by them.

9 I spoke with one of the senior representatives
10 there actually about first of all the point of the
11 sampling, how it wasn't done independently, and he was
12 giving all types of -- depending on how they did it --
13 in a certain standard way, etcetera, etcetera, and went
14 on and on. And I got him finally privately over there,
15 I said, well, you know, the tobacco industry, I give
16 him that example. He admitted to this. He admitted to
17 me, this is afterwards, well, personally I'd like to
18 see them do an independent study.

19 So even him, when you got him on a personal
20 basis and he wasn't speaking for the Defense Threat
21 Reduction Agency there he admitted that, of course, you
22 can't trust that.

23 The second point is -- so that's a bare minimum
24 they got to do where we've had a commission from people
25 from Utah that were found independent researcher that

1 will go and do that. That must be done independently
2 to even start the process. The next thing is it is the
3 most inappropriate site to do it at the Nevada Test
4 Site. They have nine hundred and forty some odd tests
5 up to -- in the past 40 years up to 1992. Whereas for
6 example, White Sands in New Mexico has only had one
7 about 45 years ago. There is hardly any radiation
8 there. This is going to take a lot of material up into
9 the atmosphere. This should be the last test site not
10 the first appropriation.

11 Another very important point is also that the
12 senior representative I talked with, he first of all
13 said it had to be the type of structure, the tunnels
14 and all the things the gentleman mentioned here. He
15 said that's the reason they had to do it in the Nevada
16 Test Site. But I said listen, you know with science
17 and everything here now that things can be calculated
18 and etcetera, etcetera. And I said you seem like a
19 very honest person, and we talked a lot and he still
20 kept defending it. Finally, about eight or ten minutes
21 in the conversation he said of course -- I said if they
22 couldn't do it at the Utah test site and we were able
23 to effectively block it, he said, well, of course they
24 could do it over there and calculate. So he admitted
25 that it could be done at the other test site. That's a

1 bogus excuse as well.

2 Those two points, the sampling has got to be
3 done correctly, and the most inappropriate site and
4 with our history it's ridiculous to be having this
5 discussion in the first place.

6 The last thing, I know time is about up here,
7 is if we really want to make an effect on this type of
8 meeting there are a number of people that we can send
9 e-mails to Orrin Hatch, and I've made kind of a
10 public -- we weren't supposed to make public
11 statements, but a number of us did speak over there. A
12 lot of people did send e-mails to Hatch, and that he
13 actually got a letter out that night. Must have been
14 burning the midnight oil. Give him some credit there.
15 He's a senior senator over 20 years. He always talks
16 about a clout, and it's not just Orrin Hatch that
17 should be working against this. But if the New Mexico
18 senator could block this, why in the heck can't Orrin
19 Hatch, one of the senior senators with clout block it.
20 We need to send him an e-mail and the send them our
21 e-mails, let's do that, also to Department of Defense,
22 send them your e-mails.

23 MS. NIELSON: After Ms. Lois Iverson will be
24 Ms. Leslie Coleman.

25 SPEAKER: Lois Iverson. I'll try not to cry.

1 I'm Lois Iverson. The Iverson family moved to Cedar
2 City July 1951. Out of all the sons, Norman was eight,
3 Paul was four and Sue was born a little later.

4 I don't recall anything about the testing going
5 on until Norman was a scout in primary when he was
6 about 10, 12, 14, about 1953 to '54. Olivia Nelson
7 took the scouts and the primary boys to the hill west
8 of Cedar City. They slept there overnight.

9 When the bomb went off the next morning, they
10 got up, watched the big fire go off. It was -- I
11 watched it from my back porch. It was like a big fire
12 going out where you could see it go off. They would
13 eat breakfast, then watched the cloud come over before
14 coming home. I don't think they ever missed an
15 explosion. Olivia Nelson, the teacher was the first to
16 die of radiation cancer.

17 Our oldest boy, Norman, passed away at the age
18 of 42 from cancer. And my last count, 11 of the 12
19 boys in Cedar had died. We had a garden. I can still
20 see the ashes moving from that end of town up over
21 Cedar, a big white gray cloud coming in.

22 We had a garden spot south of the house. Every
23 time it would be covered by snowy ashes. Some said
24 they were pink, some said they were white and gray. My
25 daughter says she remembers playing at the said south

1 end of the house and the white stuff she said was
2 bigger than snow flakes falling on them and the
3 vegetable garden.

4 We moved to St. George in 1961, and I don't
5 recall too much more about the testing until then. My
6 boy Paul used to sell ice at the Dixie Shell gas
7 station during the summer.

8 One day the Department of Energy called Evan
9 Whitehead, the county sheriff, told them to stop all
10 cars coming up over the Utah hill and using the Geiger
11 counter to see what they registered. Told them to get
12 the cars washed in St. George before going on any
13 further. Something they told them that something had
14 gone wrong, and we all know when they told them to wash
15 the cars in St. George, we know what they -- so we know
16 where the cars got to get washed. They got washed at
17 the service station in three stalls. My boy was
18 involved in washing many cars that day.

19 My youngest girl who was the same age as
20 Michelle, in junior high testing them all the time for
21 thyroid cancer, Dr. Lyon, and who was the other
22 doctor -- they used to come down every month and they
23 tested the kids and gave them goiter pills. She was
24 one of those who was sent to the University of Utah
25 Hospital for several days and they tested her.

1 You know they were guilty. They felt they were
2 responsible because they paid for our room at the
3 Little America and meals for a week in Salt Lake.
4 Since that time she has also gone to the University of
5 Utah Medical Center where they had the radiation cancer
6 center, been tested and given a prescription for
7 medicine.

8 My second son died, Paul died of Leukemia in
9 May 2003 at the age of 55. He had a horrible death.
10 When the cancer specialist came into his room in Reno
11 and saw him, he asked where Paul grew up, he grew up as
12 a young boy. When he told him he grew up in southern
13 Utah, his reply was that damned radiation. He said
14 that Paul's type of cancer could only be caused by some
15 type of radiation.

16 Paul died May 8th, 2003. My husband passed
17 away just three weeks later also of radiation cancer.
18 Nevada's Govenor Quinn ordered the flags lowered to
19 half staff in all capitol complexes the day Paul died
20 until after the funeral when the Nevada State
21 Legislature proclamation was declared that May the
22 13th, 2003, was set aside as Paul Iverson Day in Nevada
23 and dedicated to the memory of this public servant and
24 his many contributions to welfare in Nevada. He fought
25 so hard for agricultural people, the west program, the

1 mining program, and I know how hard he would have
2 fought to keep this program out of here.

3 My husband, as I mentioned, passed away three
4 weeks after Paul did, and on his death certificate they
5 put cancer, the kind not caused by radiation. We did
6 get 50,000 dollars for each of the three men. But when
7 you divide 50,000 dollars among three or four children,
8 it doesn't compensate for the deaths of their father.

9 This is wrong, and we need to stop it. And I
10 don't know how. But when you look down the other night
11 and saw all those men in suits and all the money and
12 all the brochures, I say it just made me sick to see
13 how much money has already been spent when we could
14 have done so much more with the money if we had just
15 kept it in our public schools and protected our
16 children. Thank you.

17 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much, Ms. Iverson.

18 SPEAKER: My name is Leslie Coleman, and I'm a
19 housewife from Hurricane, Utah. And I managed to get
20 with a friend of mine 77 signatures that we sent to
21 Governor Huntsman's office. Dear President George W.
22 Bush and members of the United States Congress. It's
23 come to our attention that the United States Federal
24 Government is planning to test a bomb in the State of
25 Nevada tentatively named Divine Strake which may cause

1 harm to the citizens of Nevada, Utah and perhaps
2 beyond.

3 It is the role of the president and congress to
4 preserve and defend the Constitution of the United
5 States, which promotes the general welfare and
6 preserves the right and liberty to other people. In a
7 sense the Constitution of the United States is its
8 citizenry.

9 Mr. President, members of Congress, please be
10 notified that we are no longer willing to be subjected
11 to the abuses caused by above ground or underground
12 weapons testing anywhere in these United States. In
13 order to defend, there must first be a people that are
14 preserved and protected.

15 We must not in good conscience allow this
16 administration to cause any harm to the citizens of
17 United States through weapons testing in any way, shape
18 or form. We must choose as good citizens of these
19 United States to hold onto our inalienable to right to
20 life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

21 When our forefathers thought it was necessary
22 that all ties should be broken with the king of
23 England, they wrote in the Declaration of Independence,
24 we hold these truths to be self evident; that all men
25 are created equal; that they are endowed by their

1 creator with certain inalienable rights; that among
2 these are life, liberty and pursuit of happiness; that
3 to secure these rights governments instituted among men
4 deriving their just powers from the consent of the
5 governed. That whenever any form of government becomes
6 destructive to these ends, it is the right of the
7 people to alter or abolish it and then institute a new
8 government laying its foundation on such principles and
9 organizing its power in such form as to them seem most
10 likely to effect their safety and happiness.

11 We understand these rights have been secured
12 for us through great sacrifice by our forefathers and
13 we gratefully embrace them. In the President's most
14 recent national address, Mr. Bush called for Americans
15 to have faith in freedom. Freedom at this price is not
16 freedom, but bondage. Faith should be in God and not
17 in principle.

18 I am respectfully requesting that those who we
19 have chosen to govern us will act responsibly in
20 promoting the general health, welfare and safety of its
21 citizens from ceasing and desisting all planned action
22 for the end of above or underground weapons testing.
23 To continue with this plan in any future above or below
24 ground weapons testing will constitute an illegal
25 action taken against the citizens of the United States.

1 It is breaking the law in the fact that it constitutes
2 a breach of trust by those who have entrusted our very
3 lives with. I ask that you do the right thing and
4 stand on the oath or affirmation that you all agreed to
5 when you took office. Thank you very much.

6 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Frank Baratta
7 followed by Ilene Jones.

8 SPEAKER: I'm Frank Baratta, a resident of
9 St. George. I would like to emphasize, what is the
10 real intent of this test. They say this is a
11 nonnuclear test; however, I would like to point out
12 that 700 tons equals one million four hundred thousand
13 pounds, and the United States does not have any
14 aircraft or missile that could either lift or deliver
15 such a payload. What do they really have in mind.

16 I read the literature on this, and it seems
17 pretty obvious the intent of this test is to simulate
18 the explosive force of a low yield nuclear weapon. We
19 fear reasonably this could all lead to more nuclear
20 tests at the Nevada Test Site, and if possible, and
21 even more dangerous the possible use of nuclear weapons
22 to take out underground bunkers probably in Iran or
23 North Korea, who knows. And I think this could mean
24 horrible consequences for humanity. You could just
25 imagine what could happen. Thank you very much.

1 MS. NIELSON: Ilene Jones followed by David
2 Hansen.

3 SPEAKER: I was born in St. George in 1956. On
4 Easter we were on an Easter picnic. They were living
5 in Las Vegas and they had a family in St. George. So
6 they decided to go halfway between. They were
7 five miles away from the Nevada Test Site when they
8 exploded a bomb. There were no signs of warning. We
9 had no clue what was going on.

10 My dad has developed bone cancer, had it
11 removed at the Mayo Clinic. When they removed his
12 shoulder they said it was definitely a gamma ray that
13 went through him. My grandmother died of breast
14 cancer.

15 We buried an uncle last week. He has had
16 multiple cancers. I lost an uncle six months ago. He
17 worked at the Nevada Test Site. He took pictures of
18 the bombs. I remember one conversation with him at our
19 cabin on Cedar Mountain. I said to him, I said tell me
20 about it. I want to know. I want to know what went on
21 there. And he said if I were to tell you I could be
22 killed.

23 This is scary to me because I think they
24 recover enough things -- that's neither here nor there.
25 I'm speaking on behalf of my father who couldn't come

1 tonight because he's very ill from the chemotherapies
2 and has diabetes now. I also had breast cancer. And
3 since I was in my dad's car when this occurred, that we
4 had no clue was going to occur, no signs of warning.
5 In fact, somebody stopped my dad on the road, and he
6 said you need to get the hell out of here right now or
7 we would have been closer to ground zero. Excuse me, I
8 don't usually swear, but I needed to quote that
9 directly.

10 I went to the show the other night. You'll
11 have to forgive me, I have chemotherapy. My memory
12 isn't so good. I went to that show the other night,
13 and I wasn't impressed at all. I'm a teacher, and I
14 graduated with a minor in biology. And I know that
15 radioactivity takes a long time to dissipate in the
16 soil.

17 So I went to the internet after I got home, and
18 they gave him a website to go to. My memory isn't to
19 good from chemo. I put in Utah plus initials to their
20 organization, and I came up with this. It was written
21 by -- it was a letter from the Utah Democratic Party,
22 Wayne Hollinger, Jr. Some of you of the Democratic
23 Party might know who he is. By the way, I'm a
24 Republican, but I really appreciate the stuff he wrote
25 here. And I'm going to read it.

1 It was written, and I had to look this up when
2 I was here, I'm busy as a teacher, it was written to
3 the National Nuclear Security Administration. And I
4 may not know how to say some of these words because I'm
5 not a pro, but this is what he wrote. Finally the
6 Divine Strake draft makes clear significant levels of
7 significant levels of radioactive contamination do, in
8 fact, do exist within a near vicinity of the proposed
9 Divine Strake detonation site. Soil sample number
10 DSA07 revealed plutonium 239 was detected at a level of
11 11.1 epicures per gram and sample number DSA20 was
12 estimated at 4.5 epicures of plutonium, 239 per gram.
13 At least three additional samples came in at above 2.38
14 picklecures per gram of soil. According to at least
15 one report published to describe radioactive
16 contamination and cleanup at the Brookhaven National
17 Laboratory, the most protective estimates for exposure
18 has established that plutonium levels in the
19 environment above 2.44 epicures per gram could require
20 further analysis.

21 Given these high levels of a manmade
22 radioactive isotope well above the EPA standard in at
23 least two samples, the USDC has little confidence
24 airborne radioactive particles will not be spread
25 significantly above those considered safe to either the

1 workers at the NTS or the people living downwind.

2 And although I'm not a scientist and I don't
3 know what epicures are, I do know that it was well
4 above the level that's safe. And it's my belief that
5 if that cloud goes up, people are going to be hurt all
6 over the United States and especially downwind. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. NIELSON: David Hansen followed by Gary
9 Lunt.

10 SPEAKER: David Hansen, I'm a resident of
11 Ivins, Utah. I'm categorically opposed to the
12 explosion of Divine Strake for two reasons. One, it is
13 likely to make us sick; and two, I'm opposed to the
14 explosion of nuclear devices anywhere on the planet.
15 And the purpose of this research states is to learn how
16 to explode nuclear devices to bust bunkers. That's the
17 stated purpose. So the result of this work will be
18 learning how to better explode nuclear bombs somewhere
19 on the planet.

20 As a little background, I'm a professional
21 engineer. I've been on environmental engineer for
22 about 25 years, and a good part of my career I was
23 hired by developers of various objectionable projects
24 in the east mainly to write environmental impact
25 statements for them for projects, mostly landfills. I

1 worked in the garbage business, but they are not
2 welcome neighbors to most people. So my job was to
3 prepare these environmental assessments for these
4 projects. And so I'm pretty familiar with how the
5 system works when you're hired to perform an
6 environmental assessment or, you know, for the
7 developer or proposer of a project as this assessment
8 was prepared.

9 And I'd have to say it's almost humorous,
10 humorous that they would consider a finding of no
11 significant impact for a project like this. That's
12 what you do for a subdivision that is less than
13 five acres or a little bridge over a stream and you're
14 not going to change the course of the stream. The
15 bridge is only about 20 feet long. That's appropriate
16 to projects like that not where we're going to blowup
17 stuff that has nuclear stuff in it. 10,000 feet in the
18 air the dust is going to come over once again over
19 southern Utah.

20 It's silly. It's actually ridiculous. I can't
21 believe that they contemplated or that they would let
22 it go by. As a person who's worked in this field for
23 25 years, I find it amusing, if I didn't live in
24 southern Utah I'd find it amusing.

25 But the funniest just down, and by funny I mean

1 the wrong literature there when he read the thing they
2 handed out the other night, it said there are some
3 nuclear residues in the soil that test site because
4 of -- and they listed in this area, explosions of
5 nuclear test devices by various countries in the world
6 and at Nevada, too. And that's the order they listed
7 them. The dust is because of France blowing up stuff
8 out in the South Pacific, you know. That's the level
9 of seriousness that you can ascribe to that document.
10 If we let this go by, we're fools. Thank you.

11 MS. NIELSON: Gary Lunt followed by Stephen
12 Roth.

13 SPEAKER: Like most of us here I was raised to
14 vigorously oppose evil and error. And sometimes we
15 have to expose it. And I think this is what this
16 meeting is all about. Exposing the evil, exposing the
17 error. You talk about the error in calculation that
18 there might be some nuclear particles released. Might.
19 Let's get real.

20 You know, I mean the name Divine Strake, I
21 don't understand what that Strake is about but we all
22 know what divine is. And since when is killing divine.
23 Being proficient at killing is not divine and never
24 will be. It's time we stood for truth. If George Bush
25 said pony up, it's time he ponied up to reality. They

1 need to have independence here. If it is truly safe,
2 why won't they allow independence. That's the answer
3 right there. Adverse location. In insurance, certain
4 locations you are billed higher. Was any of that ever
5 pulled out in this study to show we have a higher rate
6 of cancer here in the area. Why not. It's
7 statistically valid. We have -- there is a
8 correlation.

9 Last item is if this is so safe, why haven't
10 any of the government officials said we'll be here to
11 show you how safe it is. Those that made the decision,
12 why aren't they here. Why aren't they here for the
13 testing. They should have to tell us the day and hour
14 and everything that they are going to do it so we can
15 take precautions if they go forward. I hope and pray
16 that they don't go forward.

17 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much. Stephen
18 Roth followed by Casey Roberts.

19 SPEAKER: My name is Stephen Roth, and I grew
20 up over in Piute County, but my wife did grow up over
21 in Beryl, and she tells the stories about when she was
22 a little girl and going out and watching as many people
23 said almost like a display. I'm not a scientist, but
24 it seems like if it was that large a display that
25 certainly plenty of very dangerous particles are left

1 out there.

2 I don't see anybody that anyone that's in
3 charge of approving this project or frankly anything to
4 do with this work could argue with any of these
5 eloquent presentations that have been made, especially
6 the people that for obvious reasons to be against this
7 thing is for the health reasons and the people that
8 have spoken that have had cancer. And that I don't see
9 anyway that anyone could approve a project if they were
10 here. And I'm sure that these notes will get to them,
11 but it would seem that this thing will be defeated just
12 because of the statements made by cancer victims.

13 Everything has pretty much been mentioned.
14 That is the most important issue, but I appreciated the
15 one person that said she was Republican. I didn't -- I
16 didn't have the nerve to mention it, but I've never
17 considered myself a democrat, but my father would
18 certainly turn over in his grave if he thought that I
19 was. But as long as she mentioned it already I'll go
20 ahead and mention that.

21 But it seems like when former President Clinton
22 was the president, that one of the largest issues
23 seemed to be for the Republican leaders was to demonize
24 him for being and the Democratic party being terrible
25 cause of the economic situations and that they were

1 demanding what they called a balanced budget amendment.
2 Well, soon as President Bush was electEd, all of that
3 balanced budget discussion was out the window. And
4 this project is apparently 24 billion dollars. But as
5 a tax payer I'm opposed to spending -- I hate to make
6 myself as to naive. I am naive as a taxpayer I'm
7 opposed to spending 24 cents on war.

8 MS. NIELSON: Thank up very much, Mr. Roth.
9 Casey Roberts followed by Lexie Anderson.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening. I want to thank you
11 for holding this meeting. First of all the National
12 Nuclear Security Administration and the Defense
13 Protection Agency conducted sampling to determine the
14 radionuclidic characteristics of many of the manmade
15 radiation present in material potentially disbursed
16 from the proposed action. They found that the manmade
17 radionuclide Strontium 290 is split into stages between
18 -- (inaudible) -- percent. So according to their own
19 sampling, they are at an unsafe nuclear level. So what
20 I want to know is what is the long term public health
21 risks to chronic exposure to this manmade radionuclide.

22 I'd like to answer that question saying that
23 zero risk is acceptable. I notice -- I'd like to say
24 some people have made the extreme importance for
25 independent analysis, and independent analysis would go

1 a long way to rebuilding the public trust which they
2 progressively lost over the years. We heard many
3 statements supporting. So I would really recommend
4 them to have an independent agency come in and do a lot
5 more testing than 26 samples they took around the U16A
6 site where they did the underground nuclear testing.

7 Lastly I'd like to read you a paragraph from
8 the December 2000 -- (inaudible) -- environmental
9 impact statement on the Divine Strake. Manmade
10 radioactivity is also known to be present in the
11 vicinity of the U16A muck pile approximately one mile
12 from the U16B proposed experiment site. The distance
13 of the muck pile from the site of the experiment makes
14 it extremely unlikely that any manmade radioactivity
15 from the U16 muck pile will be disbursed into the
16 atmosphere as a result of the detonation.

17 And I'd like to point out the word unlikely. I
18 mean that doesn't go very far to enable confidence in
19 this report. Unlikely is not strong enough. The only,
20 like I said before, the only risk acceptable is until
21 they are a hundred percent certain they will not
22 disburse radioactive material on American citizens is
23 reason to say no to this proposed action. And I'd like
24 to say that the U.S. government is proposing to spray
25 American citizens with the material in the name of

1 protecting us from terrorists. And I want to ask you,
2 who's the enemy.

3 SPEAKER: My name is Lexie Anderson. I'm
4 actually here representing Snow Canyon Peace Club along
5 with some of my friends. I feel I'm so proud to see so
6 many people who have been through all of this. I think
7 it's really important my generation is here to show
8 that we care because our -- us as teens and young
9 adults, we are the generation that is going to be
10 affected by this.

11 I've seen my aunt has suffered. She went
12 through a long and many chemo treatments to get through
13 her cancer. And, you know, the money they were
14 reimbursed doesn't, you know, like people were saying
15 doesn't bring back life, reimbursing us money. I
16 certainly don't want my family, my family's kids when I
17 get older to go through what me and my brothers and
18 sisters, what pain we had to go through seeing a loved
19 one lost to cancer. I don't want to have my family go
20 through that, you know.

21 And it's like me and my friends were talking
22 yesterday, many of us were making posters, we were
23 making posters and as we were talking, you know, Utah,
24 Nevada, Arizona, they are -- it's a wonderland, not a
25 wasteland, and it shouldn't be exposed to this kind of

1 radiation.

2 If they do this bomb, what are they going to
3 allow next. And here I haven't been fighting this as
4 many -- for years and years, but to have people
5 fighting this for years and years, that's ridiculous.
6 Why hasn't this problem been resolved yet. That's all
7 I have to say.

8 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much. Allan
9 Ivers.

10 SPEAKER: I would like to read an e-mail I sent
11 as a result of the meeting a week ago. I thought it
12 was pretty good when I sent it, but a lot more has been
13 said I'm very impressed with. But the subject is
14 extremely unlikely, in quotes, comma, but, dot, dot,
15 dot. And I sent it to the Divine Strake at NV.DOE.GOV
16 website.

17 I find that comments and conclusions of your
18 graph December 2006 revised environmental assessment
19 for Divine Strake very disturbing. Given the
20 historical misjudgments of tests over the years in the
21 Nevada site and the many, many Downwinders across the
22 country who suffered and died, it is unconscionable to
23 consider further tests of any sort that might stir up
24 radioactive residue. You don't know how much
25 radioactivity is in between the sampling points.

1 Since the test is intended to provide data to
2 fill in voids in your slash DOD knowledge, you also
3 don't know the impact on the radioactive muck pile that
4 is nearby or tunnel 16A which has been the site for
5 many nuclear tests. Surely there are other similar
6 geological formations in areas that are less risky and
7 that will serve as, quote, good enough, test sites.
8 Please don't take this chance that many will regret.

9 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much. Diane
10 Anderson. Did you want to speak?

11 SPEAKER: Yes.

12 MS. NIELSON: And Diane will be followed by
13 Derek Dansett.

14 SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Diane Anderson. My
15 husband and I live in Springdale. This whole thing I
16 find very pathetic. I mean here you represent our
17 government, but the governor doesn't bother to show up
18 today. Our legislature doesn't bother to show up. And
19 I do not mean to show you any disrespect, but again,
20 it's always the few that get screwed. Always. And I
21 just really get tired of that.

22 And everybody spoke I think it's wonderful.
23 The pain that this lady and other people have
24 experienced, but it just shows how disgusting our
25 government is. I'm with my husband and he made a point

1 about when we were attacked by Iraq, people in New York
2 towers, they got millions of dollars of reimbursement.
3 Millions. Now this lady gets 50,000 dollars for
4 killing four of her family members back when. I mean
5 how pathetic is that. That's very pathetic. That's
6 why things like this totally disgust me. Why should we
7 have to come and defend ourselves. This is our country
8 not Bush's. It's ours.

9 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Derek Dansett
10 followed by Lolly Seal.

11 SPEAKER: I'd like to thank everybody for
12 coming out. This is great. I just found out about it
13 on the news last night just by chance, and I think if
14 more people really knew what was going on they'd need a
15 bigger room. And I haven't been to any of the other
16 meetings, and I didn't know anything about this really.
17 I knew they were going to test a bomb, and then I found
18 out, I checked on it, oh, it's not nuclear. Okay. I
19 had no idea there was 940 tests in the area that they
20 want to test this at. And I had a hard time finding
21 other people to find people to come to this meeting
22 with me. A lot of the process is just wasted. We come
23 here and we tell people how we feel, and nothing is
24 done. And prove us wrong. Show us that the democratic
25 process still works. Thank you.

1 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Lolly Seal followed
2 by Dorothy Thurston.

3 SPEAKER: If I stand up on a step I can reach
4 this here. Lolly Thomas Seal, I grew up in St. George
5 on Tabernacle Street along with my sister Michelle over
6 here. I am not the eloquent speaker that she is nor am
7 I the eloquent speaker my mother was.

8 Is there anyone who remembers Irma Thomas?
9 There are a few. My mother fought for the Downwinders
10 for many, many years. In going through some papers, I
11 found this picture of my mom, 1983. This was a
12 December 1983 Las Vegas newspaper. This is my mother.
13 And it says St. George resident Irma Thomas vows to
14 haunt federal officials after she died if they do
15 nothing. My mother has been gone for 15 years.

16 This has not changed in 15 years. What when
17 all of this started -- I'm amazed that we are having
18 the same discussion again, absolutely. It says, let's
19 see, after she died if Utahns do not receive justice in
20 a lawsuit that may be decided this month, Thomas, 77,
21 contends fallout from atomic tests from Nevada Test
22 Site caused cancer that killed hundreds of residents.

23 Well, it did. My sister and I both have had
24 breast cancer. We lost many, many family members to
25 cancer. My mother was right. Irma was right. I so

1 appreciate the stories that have been told here
2 tonight. We've heard them and they keep growing, these
3 stories, and these family members.

4 This stuff isn't going to go away. My
5 pediatrician told me 35 years ago, he said Lolly, this
6 stuff is going to come out in your children and your
7 grandchildren for generations, and we cannot let this
8 continue. We have got to stop this insanity now.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. NIELSON: Thank you.

11 SPEAKER: My name is Dorothy Thurston, and I
12 grew up in Mesquite, Nevada down the road a little
13 ways. And when we were young and in high school, the
14 elementary students would -- they would come around and
15 put badges on them during the course of the day. We
16 would see them change color and we would all light up
17 like Christmas trees. And we were so thrilled because
18 we were the center of all of this attention. And on
19 school mornings we would get out before school as
20 faculty and student body, we would count down ten,
21 nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one,
22 blast off, and then we would wait for the mushroom and
23 the roar and the rumbling earth. We felt so excited.

24 And then when I was a senior, I was asked to
25 contact some atomic energy commission folks to come and

1 talk to us in assembly because we were interested. And
2 two of them came. The first one stood up and he said,
3 you have the highest fallout in the nation, but there
4 is nothing to worry about. He said it again. This
5 valley has the highest fallout in the nation, but there
6 is nothing to worry about. He said it at least three
7 or four times. The second man stood up and he said the
8 same thing. It was the first time in my life I started
9 to worry. And the excitement was not quite as exciting
10 anymore.

11 Knowing that there was nothing to worry about,
12 it went on until the early 60's when I developed a
13 growth on my thyroid the size of a grapefruit, and
14 anyway went through that process. Not only me, but
15 many, many other friends. And the stories of leukemia
16 and cancer all of these things came forth.

17 Well, let's go forward to the 90's. I was
18 doing my masters thesis and decided to do it on effects
19 of fallout in southern Nevada. It was manageable
20 because between 1950 and 1962, there were 1,152 people,
21 men, women and children that lived in Mesquite, Nevada.
22 So it was manageable, and I knew everyone of them. And
23 they trusted me and I trusted them.

24 And so I started to do the research and started
25 to read. Started to read the books and the effects of

1 the clouds and follow the hundreds of tests that had
2 been taken off and where the mushroom clouds went. And
3 virtually all of it was country anyway but always over
4 usually over Mesquite, Bunkerville, Kayesville,
5 St. George, and on up this direction.

6 Well, as I contacted the people, I would become
7 weak in the knees, because when you see one at a time,
8 it wasn't overwhelming. But when you see it as a whole
9 and you understand that every, virtually every family
10 was affected with devastating horrible effects from the
11 fallout, and I'd have to backup. I do a lot of
12 weeping, and I'd say I'm back to it. I'm going to
13 follow this through.

14 Then the folks would start to call me. Did you
15 know so and so had thyroid cancer. Do you know so and
16 so just died of liver cancer and on and on and on. And
17 I guess, you know, I'm not saying anything that the
18 rest of you haven't said, but I guess what I am saying,
19 I hate being lied to. And those men lied to us. I
20 love this government. I love this government and I
21 love this country. But there are a few that lied to
22 us. And I don't want to be lied to again nor do you.
23 And I don't want to go through this and the effects are
24 coming into the second and third generations, now, and
25 it's still heartbreaking. I do need to say what my

1 daddy used to say. You can't cry over spilt milk. And
2 I'm not doing that tonight, but I am saying we don't
3 need to spill the milk again.

4 MS. NIELSON: Jeffrey Allen followed by Carl
5 Palmer.

6 SPEAKER: I want to thank everybody for
7 attending. I'm new to the area, came from Georgia, big
8 city, lot of commotion, a lot of pollution. I sought
9 peace in this land. I came to this land for peace for
10 the beauty of the desert and open lands. And to think
11 that one day we can be hiking in the middle of nowhere,
12 no concrete to be seen, no cars to be heard, but yet
13 ashes, radioactive ashes falling from the sky. That is
14 scary. And it seems like anywhere we go today, it's
15 almost impossible to find peace to find safety.

16 In this community, I've seen that though. I've
17 seen safety. I've seen kids playing in the street,
18 something so beautiful, you know. They don't have to
19 hide in your homes. They have plenty of parks to play
20 in. Plenty of open lands. To think that somebody
21 sitting in a building all day in Washington, DC, is
22 designing plans to change that, to endanger our
23 children, to endanger our land, to endanger the little
24 farmland that is left, you know, it destroys me.

25 And so, yes, the scientist said last week, you

1 know, this is our rational scientific approach. This
2 is the facts. These are the facts. I think there is a
3 fact spoken and unspoken today, and that this community
4 has a lot of heart. It has a lot of soul. And in the
5 past week I've seen something blossom so beautiful I
6 would compare it to an explosion, an explosion of love,
7 of connectivity with one another because we're all
8 going to be affected by this.

9 And so I want to thank that DTRA and NNSA. I
10 want to thank them for bringing this community
11 together, for providing a platform in which we can
12 realize that we are all human beings. That no one is
13 safe unless we come together as a community and voice
14 our concerns.

15 I think if anything can be learned from this,
16 it's that the power still rests with the people. I
17 mean we can have governments, you know, plan our lives
18 for us all day. But when we gather like this, this is
19 where the power lies. It lies in your stories and our
20 history and if our future together, speaking through
21 dialogue, through honest dialogue.

22 When I looked at the scientists the other day,
23 I didn't see that truth coming forth, you know. I saw
24 a bunch of answers but no truth behind those answers.
25 Today I see truth, you know. And I want to thank the

1 community for that.

2 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Carl Palmer followed
3 by Jennifer Jentzsch.

4 SPEAKER: Radioactive ashes falling from the
5 sky. I don't know whether or not you're going to boo
6 me tonight because I'm from Cedar City or because I'm
7 for this test in Nevada. I guess I'm the only one
8 here. But anyway, I'm very much for it and I'll tell
9 you why. My name is Carl Palmer, and I'm an electrical
10 utilities consultant. I hold a BS degree in physics.

11 I've always wondered what it would like feel
12 like to be with a lynch mob, and I feel like I'm with
13 one tonight, and I feel like the government is the
14 victim. I want you to know that I appreciate the
15 government. I appreciate it when I go into the grocery
16 store and take a can of food off the shelf and open it,
17 I know it's going to be good and nourishing because the
18 government inspected it and made certain requirements.
19 I'm grateful that we can climb on an airplane and we
20 know those engines are safe because the government has
21 inspected it and made sure they are effective.
22 Grateful when we turn on our water we get nice fresh
23 water from the tap. The only reason -- (interruption)

24 SPEAKER: Hey, show this man some respect.

25 SPEAKER: Give him the option the government

1 didn't give us the other day.

2 SPEAKER: Look, you live in the greatest
3 country in the world.

4 SPEAKER: That's what I said, neighbor. So if
5 the government didn't give us an option to speak give
6 him the option to speak.

7 SPEAKER: (By Mr. Palmer) I wasn't going to
8 speak tonight, but I received this flier I was in a
9 copy center the other night, let's not die over this
10 testing this is not safe, and so on. It reminded me
11 that with my utility background, and I appear before
12 the public utilities commission. And this is an
13 executive hearing, that's an administration hearing.
14 And it's nice because they hold the public comment.
15 And people file in and out and they make their comment.

16 And I'm always amazed because the
17 administrators sit there and what I called aggravated
18 tolerance when people complain about why their rates;
19 the utility rates should be raised; why they are
20 suffering; why they have enough rate increases. But in
21 the end, the decision is made by the professional
22 engineers, the accountants and attorneys with the
23 facts.

24 Now, tonight, I'm really concerned. I've made
25 some notes on what I've heard. These are the things

1 that we've heard. I've made some notes. Quote, we
2 feel, we believe, we're sure, Wensler Polytechnic came
3 from Nevada, the radiation came from the Nevada Test
4 Site clear across the United States as if there was a
5 flag on that. Radiation is radiation. There is no way
6 to flag that it came from the Nevada Test Site as such.
7 I don't have any facts or figures, quote, sheep herd
8 died but unknown causes.

9 I was raised in Cedar City. I'm 66-years-old,
10 and when I was a boy 12 years old, I'd go out and for a
11 millisecond the morning sky would light up and go dark
12 again. And on all the fence posts there were little
13 film badges that they check regularly, the government.

14 And you know, for every person that allegedly
15 has died from radiation cancer, there is hundreds of us
16 and hundreds of us that have lived. How about us. We
17 haven't heard about that tonight. We haven't heard
18 about the people that died of cancer that was heavy
19 smokers all their life or maybe worked in a mine or put
20 asbestos in ceilings and died from things like this.
21 We don't hear about that.

22 So what I'm saying tonight is all we've heard
23 is what I call gastric opinions. In the end, after
24 we've taken our time and stood up and talked about
25 Uncle Harry dying with cancer and how we're sure that

1 it caused, you know, I heard tonight, first of all that
2 there were clouds in the sky in Cedar. I don't
3 remember any clouds. And then as time has gone on then
4 the ashes came down, then the ashes covered the garden.
5 I wonder what's going to happen in another five years.

6 This thing is grown so far out of proportion it
7 has taken on a life of its own. And I'm hoping that as
8 we have had to express ourselves tonight with those
9 gastric opinions, that in the end, right now as we talk
10 while Iran is going under ground to develop their
11 nuclear technology to wipe Israel off the earth and the
12 United States American, the Great Satan, that we test
13 and find the answers that everyone else here says we're
14 not sure, we don't know. We shouldn't do it. We
15 shouldn't find out.

16 Bull. We need to find out, and I'm for this
17 test. And I believe in the government, and I hope
18 after this hearing that in the end, the engineers and
19 the attorneys and the scientists and the technicians
20 make the decision and we will go ahead with it.

21 SPEAKER: May I respond with facts.

22 MS. NIELSON: Let's allow the rest to be heard
23 who signed up, then if there is time at the end then
24 I'd be happy to accept additional testimony. And I
25 appreciate that. Jennifer Jentzsch followed by Valerie

1 Noel -- and I'm sorry, I can't read your last name.

2 SPEAKER: Ciarvi.

3 SPEAKER: I'm Jennifer Jentzsch. I'm 16. I go
4 to Snow Canyon High, and I do not support this test,
5 but I have to say I'm very, very disappointed in all
6 the adults in this room that just booed that man. I'm
7 very disappointed adults are doing that. That you are
8 setting that example. There are youth here and youth
9 are being represented here.

10 I don't support this test because I volunteered
11 at hospice. For people who don't know what hospice is,
12 it's for the terminally ill. And I volunteered and
13 heard countless stories, Downwinders and of people who
14 would still be living today. I've gone to countless
15 funerals that so many people who would still be alive
16 today to be here that, you know, so, not go against
17 this test. But they can't be so I want to represent
18 them.

19 I heard about this from my debate teacher, Ms.
20 Nelson. I missed hearing her speak, yet she did before
21 I got here, but I respect her so much for encouraging
22 us to do this. And probably, you know, at lot of you
23 are probably thinking she's 16, you don't have any idea
24 what you're talking about. But the youth are
25 concerned. It is our generation, and I don't want to

1 end up in a hospice talking with a volunteer about how
2 I could be.

3 MS. NIELSON: Thank you.

4 SPEAKER: At the risk of embarrassing my
5 11-year-old or 13-year-old I've gotten up to speak. I
6 didn't bring anything prepared at all, but I live in
7 Ivins, and I just moved here a year and a half ago.
8 And I read New York Times online, and I just got it
9 delivered.

10 And last month it was a wonderful article about
11 the fun things you can do in Las Vegas if you got bored
12 on the strip. You could go and apply for a DOE permit,
13 and it would take about a month or two months, and they
14 would actually permit you to actually tour the Divine
15 Strake area.

16 So I've done that. I've already applied to get
17 my permit, and I have to get an FBI check. I'm a
18 retired attorney for 22 years. I don't mind having an
19 FBI check, and then I'm permitted to go to Las Vegas,
20 and I'm going to tour this area. I'm kind of concerned
21 that I wear as much protective cover when I do that,
22 but if we had a group of people that would actually do
23 that with me, I have a website I have a e-mail. I
24 didn't bring anything prepared, but I'm Valerie Ciarvi
25 22 -- I'm 49 years old -- but VCiarvi22@Yahoo.com if

1 anybody would like to e-mail me, and I'd be happy, if
2 I'm approved to bring anybody along with me.

3 The second thing I want to say, and the reason
4 I want to do that is because the more people that can
5 go, if I feel like disgusted, I'd chain myself to the
6 fence if necessary and then I would have an FBI record
7 certainly at that point, but first thing I wanted to
8 tell you if anybody wants that information, I'm happy
9 to forward that to you. And I get a big kick out of
10 the fact the New York Times talked about this. It was
11 something interesting for us to do if we got bored with
12 the strip.

13 But the second thing is I'm a retired real
14 estate attorney from an area my son doesn't want me to
15 talk about. But I will say this as to myself, I will
16 put a sign in Ivins and I would say I have to put up
17 with this or this beautiful lady or anybody else who
18 has died in this area, I will not permit this.

19 And I would suggest to Governor Huntsman and
20 everybody else that's in government now if you want
21 fair market in St. George to plummet, I would start the
22 process because I would start telling people you cannot
23 move here if the government will not stop this. And I
24 will tell you that if you permit this to happen, not
25 only are you going to die, but your fair market values

1 are going to plummet because if that impacts on you at
2 all, somebody that impacts on you, think about it, how
3 would you write the New York Times and tell them this.
4 This is how serious this is. That's an odd combination
5 of saying I would chain myself to a metal fence for
6 something elses security and safety, I would --
7 (inaudible) -- I just paid 497,000 dollars for a piece
8 of property in Ivins that I have to tell you nobody
9 would buy from my town in the east coast if they knew I
10 had to fight to chain myself to a fence as necessary in
11 Nevada. Let me suggest to Governor Huntsman, I didn't
12 vote for you. I'm a Democrat. I'll never vote for
13 you.

14 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Duff Rogers followed
15 by Justin Powell.

16 SPEAKER: I'm up here. I look around and I see
17 everybody's faces, and I look at everybody's eyes and
18 see the passion everybody has for this community that
19 care for everything that's going on. First off I'd
20 like to say thank you for all that. Thank you
21 everybody. As for the gentlemen in the trench coat, he
22 can go back to Washington and get his bone. I don't
23 know. I think most of the people being affected by the
24 situation are of my age. I'm 18 years old. Teenagers
25 are the highest risk for this situation. If this

1 Divine Strake, you know, let drop, then we're in
2 trouble.

3 The people making this decision in Washington
4 and offices and everywhere else behind table work that
5 have their name on this, they are not the ones being
6 affected by it. And I think maybe somebody from this
7 community should be the deciding factor for this
8 situation. I don't need anymore education on this
9 subject other than what I have gathered from the
10 community. People that saw the cloud over St. George
11 that have been involved, you know. That's enough for
12 me.

13 And if people here that are protecting our
14 rights here as citizens of the United States, my hats
15 off to you right now for being here and protecting my
16 generation. Thank you very much.

17 Some people here right now watching all this
18 happen around them are terrified. Personally, that is
19 not what I gathered growing up and what I was taught in
20 school to be a democracy. Democracy is not supposed to
21 be fearing our own government. It's not supposed to
22 be -- it's not living in fear of ourselves. And I
23 don't need all the time that's taken tonight to tell
24 you that the risks we're taking by dropping this bomb
25 are worth taking for any reason at all. And that on

1 behalf of everybody of my generation, the youth of this
2 community of this beautiful area and this beautiful
3 country, I'd like to say no to Divine Strake. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. NIELSON: Justin Powell followed by Davis
6 Hammen.

7 SPEAKER: My name is Justin Powell. I'm a
8 resident of La Verkin, Utah. I'm an absolute nobody,
9 but I'm an American.

10 SPEAKER: That makes you somebody, man.

11 SPEAKER: I am somebody, and I'm standing here
12 representing everybody with absolutely no political
13 background or anything. I'm a simple American. I pay
14 my taxes. I paid all your wages. I'm not going to say
15 thank you, or thank you for giving me this opportunity,
16 because true democracy states we all have freedom of
17 speech and that we are supposed to vote for things that
18 happen inside of our country and for the benefit for
19 this mankind on this continent let alone be a leader
20 for the world, which I say we are and we're not. And
21 I'm not going to say thank you for letting me speak.

22 I want to say thank you to Mrs. Iverson and for
23 the pain that she shared with us that our government
24 should recognize instantly. And that we might live
25 close to Zion, but the whole planet is Zion, you know.

1 I don't care if you want to test it in New Mexico, I
2 don't care if you want to test it on an island in the
3 Pacific. You're still testing something that doesn't
4 belong here that we shouldn't create and that shouldn't
5 happen.

6 I also believe -- that I also believe that
7 we're doing this for one man or his organization, well,
8 you know, those mountains are beautiful in Afghanistan.
9 There are people there with children just like this
10 woman and her family. And they are going to be
11 affected for three generations because of one man?
12 That doesn't make any sense. We're worried about Utah
13 and Nevada. What about the planet. What about the
14 other people that live on it. And when we evolve this
15 stupid bomb to drop it for Osama, who is old and is
16 probably going to die of his old age anyway whether we
17 get him or not. God's going to take care of him,
18 that's for sure.

19 And I have faith in God because in God we trust
20 in the United States of America. So why are we going
21 to produce a bomb that is going to go out there, and
22 how many people are going to suffer over here if this
23 evolves from this stage.

24 It's bigger than Utah. It's bigger than
25 Nevada. It's bigger than LA catching this thing than

1 St. George. It is huge. And I'm a nobody, but I feel
2 this -- I feel this on a global level, and I feel this
3 on a local level, and I have nothing but respect for
4 the local people and none for my government. And
5 that's true democracy right there.

6 MS. NIELSON: Davis Hammen followed by Nancy
7 Furst.

8 SPEAKER: My name is Davis Hammen, and thank
9 you so much for every last one of you. I would rather
10 not be here tonight. I would rather be putting my
11 hands in some soil. I would rather be growing some
12 herbs, growing some plants. I'd rather been planting
13 some trees. I'd rather be with children, I would
14 rather be building up my community. But you know what,
15 when the time comes I will make the stand.

16 I will make a stand against that which
17 threatens our community. And I'm not a man of many
18 words, and I'll keep this very short and sweet. I
19 stand for liberty. I stand for wellness. And this
20 bomb does not remind me of any sense of any kind of
21 wellness. It reminds me of death. That's what it
22 reminds me of. It is death. Whether it's for Utah,
23 California, United States, Afghanistan, I don't want
24 that in my life. I want life. That's what I want.
25 This is not life.

1 MS. NIELSON: Nancy Furst followed by Blake
2 Chambers.

3 SPEAKER: I'm Nancy Furst. I'm a resident of
4 Ivins and have been for seven years. I do appreciate
5 the opportunity and am honored to be here with
6 everyone. A year and a half ago I was diagnosed with a
7 stage three metastatic thyroid cancer, healthy before
8 that. I wasn't here as a Downwinder. I didn't live
9 here at that time. But when I went diagnostic on the
10 internet, I typed in thyroid cancer, St. George, and
11 was blown away and heartbroken by the stories of the
12 Downwinders and the fact that they couldn't even at
13 this day and age be recognized for what was obvious had
14 occurred.

15 Thyroid cancer is only created from
16 overexposure to radiation of some sort. I happen to
17 believe that the long term effects of radioactive
18 energy and the kind of chemicals that this bomb is
19 containing have a long term affect on the earth.

20 I think that my thyroid cancer does relate to
21 my time living here. Maybe it can't be scientifically
22 proven, but it's something that it was a grueling thing
23 to go through. I had to take radioactive iodine as
24 part of my treatment. I've had radioactive radiation
25 in my body. I wouldn't want anybody to go through

1 that.

2 What we do to mother earth matters. I believe
3 that as Native Americans do that she is sacred and all
4 life within her and upon her is sacred. What we do
5 from that point -- and how we treat her is how we treat
6 ourselves. I don't want to put that energy in the
7 earth. I don't want to know the if and when on the
8 date. I don't want to be medically compensated that
9 way if I have to go through any further cancer
10 treatment. I didn't have health insurance. I'm taking
11 care of it. I am still paying my medical bills. I
12 don't want the government to compensate me. I don't
13 want this bomb to drop.

14 MS. NIELSON: Blake Chambers.

15 SPEAKER: I want to thank Mr. Nobody. That was
16 fantastic. I want to thank everyone here this evening
17 for making varied points, some sorrowful points, but I
18 want to turn this personal. You're an elected
19 official?

20 MS. NIELSON: No, appointed.

21 SPEAKER: Your residence of public record,
22 though, do you live here in St. George?

23 MS. NIELSON: No, I live in Salt Lake City.

24 SPEAKER: Okay. Do you have children that live
25 in St. George? Do you have grandchildren that live in

1 St. George? If you did, would you want that bomb to go
2 off?

3 MS. NIELSON: I think it's hard to believe that
4 anybody who lives in St. George would want that bomb to
5 go off.

6 SPEAKER: Good. That is the answer everybody
7 wants with the exception of one person, and he's
8 entitled to his opinion regardless of whether or not we
9 agree to it. This is America. We all have those. So
10 thank you.

11 SPEAKER: (By Jason VanSant) I'm not good at
12 public speaking, but I'm more afraid of dying. I come
13 here today to say no to the Divine Strake test. I say
14 this for two reasons. The first reason being the
15 immediate danger imposed on us by the test itself. I'm
16 thoroughly unconvinced by the claim that we would only
17 receive an insignificant harmless dose of radiation,
18 especially when they were initially told back in May
19 that no radioactive material will travel beyond the
20 test site. This put to change science combined with
21 far to many stories of loss and sickness caused by
22 previous tests that were deemed safe for Utah residents
23 tells me we cannot allow this test to take place.

24 Secondly, we need to look at why this test is
25 being proposed in the first place. Divine Strake is

1 designed to simulate the explosion of a low yield
2 nuclear weapon. So what we have to ask ourselves is do
3 we want to put any new nuclear rocket into the hands of
4 an administration that is clearly demonstrated its lack
5 of concern for the lives and well-being of hundreds of
6 thousands of men, women and children in Iraq. Do we
7 really want a weapon of such devastating power to be
8 used in our name. For me the answer is a clear and
9 definite no. Stopping this test will not only protect
10 our friends, family and neighbors, it will also save
11 countless innocent lives.

12 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Brian Merkel is next
13 followed by Manny A.

14 SPEAKER: Hello. Everybody hear me. Good. I
15 barely heard about this meeting, and I thought, well,
16 I'd better come down here and see what's going on. I
17 didn't write anything so all this is off the top of my
18 head.

19 First of all, I think we already have too much
20 global warming going on, so why do we need a bomb going
21 off. The government wastes too much money as it is.
22 We've already wasted 400 billion dollars in Iraq alone.
23 That's far too much. All bombs do is spread poison to
24 humans and the earth and everything that lives. A good
25 bomb is no bomb.

1 If our government is so decisive about blowing
2 up bombs in America, I'd like to see them do it
3 somewhere else if they have to do it. But if they have
4 to do to here, I'd like to see it somewhere in Texas
5 and let them deal with it.

6 Look what happened in New Orleans, how our
7 government failed. Big failure. So they're not going
8 to get us out of this mess. I just hope they don't
9 drop it because there is almost enough bombs to blowup
10 the world tens of thousands of times.

11 So this test, I don't see any use in this test.
12 I'd like to have people looking for information about
13 bombs, you can go to Parowanprophet.com. You can find
14 out everything you want about bombs, and it will scare
15 the dickens out of you. Anyways, I hope it doesn't
16 happen. I'm looking forward to the next meeting.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. NIELSON: Manny followed by Ray Odette.

19 SPEAKER: My name is Manny, better known as
20 Mr. Hollywood. I came here a year, a little bit over a
21 year. Worked for Universal for 25 years in the
22 entertainment world. When I see this, when I see
23 something like this, it really breaks me because I seen
24 all these special effects of bombs movies that we done.
25 It almost reminds me of an Oliver Stone movie. Here,

1 unfortunately, this is reality.

2 I came to this country for the freedom of
3 speech that we didn't get at the Dixie Center last
4 Thursday where the police officers wanted to arrest
5 somebody that, except that this retired weatherman was
6 there, and they kind of said lay back. And his wife
7 had just passed away ten days ago.

8 Being in this country, I come here illegally, I
9 do have -- I'm legal now, by the way -- and one of the
10 things that made me an advocate for the environment and
11 to protest for the peace movement is that I belong to
12 no religion. I belong to no party. Don't vote. Don't
13 belong. I come from a government and a center, which
14 was my dad, that was a nice man but very rugged.

15 So I come from a country where I didn't believe
16 my government, and I come down here thinking, wow,
17 maybe that will change. I still see the same problems
18 here. I don't believe any government at all.

19 So one of the reasons I'm here, Madam Chairman
20 and everybody here, what I love about this right here,
21 too, is that it doesn't matter. This bomb doesn't
22 matter to the latino, Mormon, Asian, black. It's going
23 to affect everybody.

24 And the reason I'm here is because I've been to
25 a lot of, you know, pesticides where the planes were

1 actually landing their pesticides while they were
2 picking crops in the fields. I seen a lot of diseases
3 and things like that.

4 One of my main concerns for this problem that
5 we see here with the bomb is I've been around the world
6 doing movies, Africa, everywhere, and I don't want to
7 see more birth defects. I've seen enough birth defects
8 to last me a lifetime to see that problem and
9 Downwinders from other places, and we had these type of
10 tests in my country in Mexico. But down there if you
11 say something like if I was speaking right now, the
12 federales would have already taken me away by now. And
13 so one of the things is I moved to St. George because
14 you got a great community. I love it down here. It's
15 an adjustment no doubt about it. I'm also here because
16 I tell my people, you know, my latin brothers, you have
17 to learn English. If you don't learn our English,
18 you're going to be ignorant of what the government's
19 doing. That's why I learned English, you know. That's
20 why I learned.

21 So in saying I've seen enough cancer also.
22 I've seen enough misery around the world, and I'm just
23 one of those citizens, I'm an environmentalist and I
24 love animals and stuff like that. I'm an animal lover,
25 and one of the things is just that regardless of who we

1 have as governor and stuff like that, I can't believe
2 it.

3 This reminds me of the government of my city in
4 Acapulco. Our government would never have been here.
5 I expected Mr. Huntsman to be here. So I'm, so, and
6 saying that I just want to let you guys know there is a
7 lot of people that have come from out of town, they
8 care.

9 The latino community is not happy about this.
10 Unfortunately they can't speak the language. I'm here
11 to represent justice, and that's what I'm all about.
12 Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

13 MS. NIELSON: Ray Odette followed by Dallin
14 Smith.

15 SPEAKER: My name is Ray Odette. I'm a current
16 cancer survivor as a lot of these people are in here.
17 I'm an official Downwinder three years ago. I had an
18 experience couple of years ago. I met one of these
19 scientists at the Yucca Flats that was involved with
20 these explosions. And we got to talking one day. It
21 was Pine Valley campground. And one thing led to
22 another, and I said what do you do. He says I'm one of
23 these SOB's that nobody in St. George likes. And I
24 says what do you mean. He said I'm one of the
25 scientists at Yucca Flats. I said you're right, you

1 are an SOB. And I turn around and I asked him why.
2 Why do you do this. I said I'm not too smart, but
3 after 940 explosions, some of these scientists ought to
4 know something what's going on. Why.

5 And then I asked again, why do you do it when
6 you do it. And he actually told me the wind
7 directions, that was less population this way than
8 there was going to California. So they waited until
9 the -- I'm familiar with the highs and lows and weather
10 conditions -- with the wind blowing in the right
11 direction. It had to blow to the west, which that's
12 why we were involved in what we were doing. I just
13 shook my head, and I said, you're right, you are the
14 SOB.

15 I've been in southern Utah all my life. I was
16 raised in San Juan County. And the winds blows from
17 here to east in San Juan County. I'm not too smart,
18 but I do know dust goes into the air. I don't know if
19 you're familiar with the Monticello area uranium mine
20 with the dust in the area. There are over 450 cancer
21 and leukemia patients in Monticello which has a
22 population, well, at that time it was less than 1,800.
23 It's unbelievable.

24 I'm not speaking for them. I'm just saying I'm
25 sure that they are quite concerned about this as well

1 as we are here. I just don't know. I know highs and
2 lows conditions. You know, if it's low it goes one
3 way, if it's high it goes the other way. So some
4 people wondered when are we going to set this off.
5 Hell, they are going to set it off when the highs and
6 lows are in the right area so it can blow back over
7 you.

8 If I'm not mistaken, I see a lot of people that
9 was at that Downwinder meeting we had at the hospital
10 and Senator Hatch spoke. Unless I'm mistaken, before
11 the election he says I will do my damndest to make
12 sure there is no explosion before the election. So I
13 don't know where he stands. Am I correct on that? I
14 remember you giving him a hard time, and he wanted to
15 get out of there.

16 I'm mainly here to say stop this insanity. If
17 not for me, we're all over the hill, but for my grand
18 kids. For crying out loud don't make them go through
19 what we had to. I just want to -- you remember the
20 movie a few years ago when he came out, this guy, I
21 think he went nuts and did something, and I quote this,
22 I'm damned tired of it and I'm not taking it anymore.

23 MS. NIELSON: Dallin Smith followed by Edward
24 Hyde. Is Mr. Smith here? How about Edward Hyde?

25 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Edward Hyde,

1 and I am here with the man up here. I believe the man
2 who said ask not what you can do for your country or
3 not ask not what your county can do for you, ask what
4 you can do for your country had mental disabilities and
5 should have been committed. Either that or when you
6 think about what your county can do for you, you come
7 up with nothing, and what you do for your country in
8 this world of rigged elections and etcetera, you will
9 come up with nothing.

10 But I had a grandma who died of cancer due to
11 the radiation before I was even born. I never got to
12 know her. And from what my mom tells me, I probably
13 would have liked her quite a bit. I also had one of my
14 grandpas die from it, and my other grandma had an
15 attack from it. And I remember visiting in the
16 hospital and just to see her in pain. You could just
17 see, tell how much pain there is.

18 And one person is too much. And I'll say just
19 one more thing. If they drop that bomb, they will drop
20 it on my head. I will not sit by and stand for them to
21 kill off my mother and father and brothers and sisters
22 and my sons and my daughters if the occasion may be. I
23 don't want to see them die that way.

24 MS. NIELSON: Patricia Lee followed by Pete
25 Rasmussen.

1 SPEAKER: I'm a living being and I represent
2 all life. And I want to speak tonight because I was at
3 the meeting last week and my freedom of speech was
4 denied to me. And I want to read you excerpts from the
5 letter that I sent into the NNSA. I want to be heard
6 because that's my intrinsic right. It's all of our
7 rights.

8 Number one, are there any of us here in this
9 community that are expendable. I don't like the
10 government that works that way. That acts as if one
11 person, even one person is expendable for goals that
12 boggle my mind.

13 Nuclear proliferation on this planet, is it
14 necessary. Can we figure out how to live on this
15 planet? Are there enough intelligent beings that are
16 evolved enough that love goodness and of truth that
17 have the heart and soul to work this out without
18 blowing each other up. Maybe one another, violating
19 the planet, destroying nature, destroying any living
20 being.

21 All living beings on the planet are affected by
22 this. This isn't a local issue. This is a national
23 issue. This is an international issue. Perhaps if we
24 could study it, we would find out that it goes beyond
25 the boundaries of our planet.

1 The arrogance of these scientists, these
2 governmental officials, big business that turns the
3 wheels that's going on on this planet. The arrogance,
4 the irresponsibility is grossly negligent.

5 I'd like to read some excerpts from my letter.
6 I wrote to the NNSA regarding cancellation of Divine
7 Strake. Can you hear me? Are any of us expendable.
8 In the article that Matheson wrote in the paper that
9 was in the paper yesterday in the editorial section the
10 other day, I referred to thousands of deaths from
11 cancer in this area, not hundreds as I heard somebody
12 quote, but thousands. One, just one person's life
13 disrupted and the quality of it destroyed isn't
14 excusable.

15 Where is the heart and soul and love of these
16 people. Is love a four letter word that we can't say
17 anywhere in our government? In our big business? In
18 our scientific community? Love, it's a basic element.
19 It's a basic value of human life. Have we forgotten,
20 this is our lives. This is our love.

21 Excuse me if I am strongly emotional about my
22 life and the quality of my life, and the life around me
23 and all life on the planet. I am angry. I am very,
24 very angry and offended at a government who tried to
25 pull this. Who tried to do this. Michelle, Michelle's

1 life is an example here. Is that what they want. All
2 the other people who have talked, is that what they
3 want? Do they want to continue maiming life.

4 Can't we apply creativity, love, intelligence,
5 to create a better way of life? Is it so farfetched
6 that mankind can evolve beyond its existing limitations
7 right now. This old paradigm being rehashed and
8 repeated over and over again. How many thousands of
9 years are people going to the apathetically and numbly
10 accept war as a way of life. Oh, well, I'm going to
11 grocery store today. But over in Iraq a little child's
12 arms are being blown off or their face or their legs.
13 Is that okay. Well, it's okay. I just got my box of
14 corn flakes. I'm going to be comfortable tomorrow
15 morning and then I'll be comfortable tomorrow night in
16 front of my T.V. set.

17 Well, our government is going over to the
18 Middle East to try to take control of the Middle East
19 in the name of what. In the name of what? Destroying
20 more life. It's not okay. It's not okay. And I want
21 to voice myself.

22 We do not accept what you're trying to do.
23 This is directing to the NSO/NNSA. It's really
24 directed to corrupt government. But you know what
25 guys, we are the government. We are the people. And

1 if they're corrupt, it's because we let them become
2 corrupt. We need to become responsible. We need to
3 become aware and informed and active. We need to take
4 part. We need to reclaim our government in two aspects
5 of it. Let's.

6 get back to our basics. Let's get back to our
7 basics. It takes us. We cannot just give our power
8 and authority away and expect that they are going to do
9 okay with it. Look what they are doing. They separate
10 themselves from us. They're taking charge. They got
11 their own agenda, and they listen to us sometimes.
12 We're given a tiny, tiny courtesy and then those
13 scientists and those attorneys and those politicians,
14 they make the decisions. And what turns their wheels?
15 Big bucks. Money. Money. Not the basic values of
16 life.

17 I do not accept what you're trying to do or how
18 you're trying to do it. Nothing has changed. We are
19 still strongly opposed to Divine Strake or anything
20 like it anytime, anywhere. A bogus revised report
21 changes nothing.

22 Enough is enough. I want to hear Americans all
23 over this country daring to stand up and say, enough is
24 enough. What's happening here with Divine Strake is a
25 small example of things going on all over this country

1 that affect the entire planet. It's an international
2 issue. You want to control the wind. It goes
3 everywhere. The waters are everywhere. This is --
4 it's irresponsible.

5 Enough is enough. We are tired of being lied
6 to, manipulated and used as a people. We, the people,
7 are saying no. We now call for better government
8 leadership. The quality of life is at stake. The
9 quality of our lives, the quality of all life. The
10 purpose of politicians is to care for the people and
11 their welfare instead of staging bogus wars and tests
12 that benefit a few at the expense of many.

13 We call for changes in programs that enhance
14 and support the life of many. All life on all levels
15 at all times. Violation and destruction of nature and
16 life on this planet must stop.

17 We call for a better way of life and we call
18 for better leadership to join us in that way of life.
19 The elected officials have power because we have given
20 them power. If the people take back their power and do
21 their role in the government, we can create a better
22 way of life. It's our responsibility to do that. This
23 isn't us against the government, we are the government.
24 They are people, too.

25 MS. NIELSON: Ms. Lee --

1 SPEAKER: I'll finish up. A lot of people have
2 made similar points that I have made here. Another one
3 I wanted to repeat is what is the greatest threat.
4 Terrorists or would be enemies or the errant ways of
5 corrupt government. Who is terrorizing who. Who do we
6 really need to protect ourselves from.

7 The possibility of renewed nuclear testing once
8 again puts Utahns at risk for being downwind.
9 Underground nuclear test weapons can and do leak.
10 Congress Office of Technology Assessment has stated
11 there can never be 100 percent confidence that a test
12 will not release radioactive material.

13 Making new nuclear weapons insures a steady
14 stream of nuclear weapons. Cleanup waste in Utah
15 Energy Solutions has accepted massive quantities of
16 nuclear waste from nuclear weapons across the country.
17 I don't want Utah to be a nuclear state. I don't want
18 to be a radioactive individual. Tell the Pentagon what
19 we think of this reckless idea. Speak plainly. Speak
20 strongly. Speak together in collective power. This is
21 the only sure way to prevent the Divine Strake. We
22 will not create the destruction that will ultimately
23 create and lead to more nuclear development and the
24 destruction that will be more wide scale. Please,
25 everybody, let's make this change together. We can be

1 successful in doing this. Thank you.

2 MS. NIELSON: Pete Rasmussen followed by
3 Claudia Goodman.

4 SPEAKER: I'd like to start just by saying
5 thank you to you for being here and for facilitating
6 this emotional event. When that man asked you the
7 question and he looked into your eyes, and I think we
8 were all looking into our eyes, thirsty for you to tell
9 us something from your heart, I think that you did and
10 I thank you for that, too.

11 I wasn't going to speak today because I'm
12 trying to find a balance between being objective and
13 talking to people about this issue, because I'd like to
14 put a documentary film together. When I was sitting up
15 here listening and this beautiful woman was speaking,
16 there was three little kids that were sitting up there,
17 little kids maybe under the age of three, and I felt
18 emotion run through my soul, my heart, again, and I
19 knew I just had to be part of this ceremony.

20 And I've been through a lot with a lot of you
21 in the last three weeks in terms of gathering
22 information and talking with folks. And I have endless
23 stories that I can't wait to put together and share,
24 because I think that's what this is about is not about
25 the scientific facts or scientific opinions that are

1 trying to be portrayed, but about emotion, because this
2 is about life. And like so many people have said, life
3 is not saying no to things, it's about what we can say
4 yes to. What we can support. What we can help grow.

5 And I think right now in this forum we're
6 seeing this, we're seeing emotion come up. And I
7 thought it was amazing that there was only one elected
8 official with us earlier. I thank Pat Cluff for being
9 here. I would like to know if there are any federal
10 agents here tonight.

11 Sir, I don't mean to point you out, but I've
12 seen you at a few different events. Can you tell me
13 what you do?

14 SPEAKER: I represent Jim Matheson.

15 SPEAKER: Awesome. I feel it's so important
16 that our representatives realize not only is this an
17 emotional issue and a issue of life and an issue of
18 health of the land of Utah, but I think that hopefully
19 what can be expressed is that this is unfortunately
20 this is what needs to be drawn out. But this is a
21 political issue was well. And that what we need to do
22 is take this momentum that we have here, take this
23 energy that we have here we're trying to grow, and have
24 some momentum to move forward.

25 We need to know where this information being

1 typed over here is going. And so as citizens, I think
2 what we need to remember is that our duty is to hold
3 our representatives responsible for the promises that
4 they make. And how we can do that is not to just show
5 up tonight and voice our emotions and say beautiful
6 things that we have to say, but continue that motion
7 forward.

8 And so what I can only suggest from my humble
9 position of not knowing a whole lot, let's find their
10 phone numbers which we have on these orange papers and
11 pink papers here, and let's call them everyday from now
12 until February 7th, maybe three times a day so they
13 start to know -- when I called yesterday, they were
14 surprised I called about Divine Strake at John
15 Huntsman's office. So let's call everyday so they
16 realize people of Utah have emotion and have
17 intelligence and have momentum to see that something is
18 done by our representatives.

19 I'd like to end by the fact that yesterday I
20 visited Snow Canyon High School. They have a peace
21 club there, and some of the members are here today.
22 They told me stories of how difficult it was to get
23 their organization going. And they stayed strong and
24 they knew what they wanted to do. And they got
25 together last night and made signs for this event. One

1 thing that they wrote, they said -- they said your
2 bomb, our future, and I think that's something that we
3 all need to realize.

4 This is about the children. This is about the
5 little two-year-old kid talking to his mom trying to
6 get her to look at the beautiful little art work she
7 was scribbling on the paper while you were telling your
8 stories. This is beautiful because this is a
9 multigeneration forum right here of people that
10 experience it and people who have knowledge and wisdom
11 to pass onto us. And the younger generation, we are to
12 show you that we will continue this struggle forever.
13 And we will, if it has to be to that point, we will
14 stand across Highway 395 with thousands of people if
15 they decide to go ahead with this and engage in civil
16 disobedience. Hopefully it won't get there, but if it
17 does, we will be there.

18 MS. NIELSON: Claudia Goodman followed by Buzz
19 Vigus.

20 SPEAKER: I'm Claudia Goodman from St. George.
21 I'd like to thank our hostess tonight. She's acted
22 with grace and dignity and done a beautiful job. Thank
23 you.

24 I'm sure you've all noticed tonight there are
25 very few children we're glad that there was just a

1 handful, and very few young parents. The reason is
2 they are home taking care of those children, and I'd
3 like to speak on behalf of them tonight and my little
4 grandchildren and children who live in the area and
5 nearby.

6 These are the hope our country. These are our
7 future. And these are the innocent victims of this
8 testing if it goes forward. It's taking away their
9 freedom as well as ours. And they have longer lives to
10 live. We can choose to avoid eating meat if we're
11 afraid it's contaminated with mad cow disease; or we
12 can choose to avoid eating spinach if we think it might
13 have E-coli. We can even choose to avoid chlorinated
14 or fluoridated water if we feel that way because we can
15 buy purified water. But we have no choice on the air
16 we breathe. We can only breathe what's out there and
17 there is no freedom there. If it's tainted, we have to
18 breathe it.

19 Along the road when serious problems emerge,
20 it's too late to do anything about it. We have the
21 history of our past. I do want to say I love the
22 United States of America with all my heart, and I
23 believe in it. And I believe that we cannot -- we
24 cannot act on weakness. We can only act on strength.
25 And that we need to get behind our country and support

1 it. I'm grateful for a country trying to defend us the
2 best it knows how.

3 I like to look for the good, and I only pray
4 that this great country of ours can find a safer way to
5 defend us so we can have pure air to breathe and have
6 hope for our future. How precious is a life. Each one
7 of us is an American citizen, and we deserve the
8 protection and the life. Thank you.

9 MS. NIELSON: Buzz Vigus followed by Alesha
10 Sevy.

11 SPEAKER: My name is Buzz. First and foremost
12 I'm just a citizen. For the last four years I've been
13 talking as much as I could on talk radio about this
14 upcoming testing. Nobody was listening four years ago.
15 They were worried about seat belt laws. Important
16 things. But in the last few months we found ourselves
17 with a bully pulpit.

18 There is a new radio station in town, and I'm
19 not here representing it other than to say that 101.9
20 FM is a nonprofit station, was developed about
21 environmentally friendly issues. Now my boss, his
22 dream is to talk to you and inform the community about
23 recycling. But we're all for recycling, but until we
24 get to that, he's saddled with me.

25 The quintessential issue of the time is Divine

1 Strake. We talk about a country that trained us well,
2 didn't they. They put up little yellow signs and
3 orange signs and red alert signs, then they had little
4 yellow signs, be careful, and they strip search
5 grandmothers, but then they suggest it might be a good
6 idea to blowup 700 tons of stuff. Unbelievable.

7 I did a quick interview with our guest formerly
8 of Cedar City, and he's a nice man, really a nice man.
9 I understand his belief. I understand that, you know,
10 there are people, and we are in a state that we sustain
11 leadership, and there's nothing necessarily wrong with
12 that. But it must be a leadership that can be trusted,
13 and they have proved to us that they can't, whether
14 it's 40 years ago on the original testing or most
15 recently.

16 The voices of Palmer and voices that write
17 these letters to the editor, I'll refer you to the
18 Dixie Weekly. My friend and former interviewee,
19 Dr. Miles, made an appearance today at the Dixie
20 Weekly. And bless his heart, they were here to
21 convince us that there is nothing wrong with these
22 tests. It's all going to be okay. I don't know how
23 they get to be that obtuse. I really don't.

24 It's an amazing, especially in the face of
25 people who, like Michelle and all the people who are

1 affected whether personally themselves or their
2 families or relatives or neighbors or people you've
3 heard about. I don't know how a Dr. Miles or Bruce
4 Church or any of these other people can look at this
5 young lady and give us that argument. They do, but
6 that's okay.

7 Real quickly. One gentleman said, and I'm 56,
8 they can do what they are going to do tomorrow and it
9 probably won't affect me. But I care about your kids
10 and grand kids, and that's been my issue on talk radio.
11 We have to stand up and say no.

12 We should fully expect our governor, our
13 Senator, we have Congressman Matheson in our corner,
14 however Congressman Bishop and Cannon need to be
15 reminded that they represent all of Utah, not just
16 their district. I would hope that when you're writing
17 to these people you will also write to Idaho. Idaho
18 was terribly affected as Downwinders, and they have
19 quite an organization up there. Maybe the spearhead, I
20 don't know. Maybe Downwinders United, or whatever.
21 The senators up there seem to be fairly involved.

22 I would write to them. I would write to
23 Wyoming, write to Colorado. This election in November
24 changed things and now there is talk about a western
25 coalition. Now would be the time to hook them up as

1 interested in this issue. So I would certainly
2 encourage you to write your surrounding states that are
3 also Downwinders or potentially.

4 The last thing I want to mention and I've heard
5 it in different versions, we are being told repeatedly,
6 some of us way too repeatedly, that we are fighting
7 them over there so we don't have to fight them over
8 here. I would suggest to you that, you know, they
9 continue on this own path. We're fighting our own
10 government over here. We don't have to worry about
11 Iranians or Afghanians or any other. Our government
12 seems hell-bent-for-leather in the last two days, two
13 weeks to engage Iran.

14 We have an issue that we don't like other
15 people having nuclear weapons, just us. Interesting
16 concept. And as a couple of people mentioned, it's --
17 it's certainly hypocritical to build nuclear weapons
18 and tell another people they shouldn't. It would be
19 nice to find a way that no one had nuclear weapons. We
20 opened Pandora's Box 60 years ago. We should close the
21 door. For our area, for our world, for our children.
22 I would say what they said about the war in Iraq. Not
23 in my name, not now, not ever.

24 MS. NIELSON: Alesha Sevy followed by Ken
25 Wheeler.

1 SPEAKER: I wasn't planning on speaking
2 tonight, but as I heard all the stories of the people
3 grew up here, and I grew up here, but I didn't grow up
4 when that was going on. And all of the kids who were
5 so excited to watch the blast.

6 I have a little girl named Sienna, and she's
7 eight. If there is anybody in the room that knows her,
8 you know that your life is better for knowing her. And
9 everyday she wakes up and she is so excited to go to
10 school. And she's so excited to learn, and she's
11 really proud to be a American. And she really, really
12 trusts George Bush our president.

13 And I don't express all of my political beliefs
14 to her, and I let her make her own decisions, and she
15 really trusts her teachers and her principal. And she
16 really trusts me. And all I want is for her to be able
17 to trust everybody and really believe that this world
18 that she lives in, this beauty I moved her to is really
19 a wonderland that we think it is.

20 I'm so grateful to live here, and it's just a
21 beautiful place and there is so much wildlife, and I
22 just -- we'll have to make a decision to move her away
23 from all of her family and all of this nature if this
24 happens. And I think that's really, really, really
25 wrong. So I just -- I want this to be a safe place for

1 our children. And I just want the future to be that
2 way for her and all of her children.

3 SPEAKER: My name is Ken Wheeler from Dixie
4 Downs. All evening you've been hearing about
5 radiation. My comment is not about radiation. All
6 proponents and supporters of Divine Strake, do not do
7 it. The bomb is nothing less than an infernal device,
8 a devilish machine. It is a killing machine. It is
9 for war. War is hell orchestrated by the devil. If
10 needs must be that offenses come, but woe to them by
11 whom they come. Thou shalt not kill. This is a
12 commandment for which you will be held accountable.

13 MS. NIELSON: Nigel Nessen followed by Don
14 Gibbons.

15 SPEAKER: My apologies for the way I wrote my
16 name, it's Nyal, like the Nile River.

17 MS. NIELSON: Thank you very much.

18 SPEAKER: I was too young to fight back when I
19 got that name. Some 61 years ago I was born in Logan.
20 I've had the good fortune of being an over-the-field
21 trucker, and I've seen the width of this great nation.

22 I remember when I was in elementary school,
23 they get on the PA system back in the 50s and announced
24 when they were doing these testings and that we should
25 not go outside. And I would like to correct some of

1 the people that stood up here and said we live in a
2 democracy. You're wrong. We live in a republic.
3 There is a big difference.

4 But a message to the elected officials has been
5 very evident in this meeting from everybody that I've
6 been able to see, and what has been widely expressed
7 across the state. We, the constituents, do not want to
8 see this testing. Though it may not be nuclear, but
9 there is no reason why they need to do this.
10 Absolutely none. It has been done with the nuclear
11 enough that they have all of the information that they
12 need. They know it, we know that they know it.

13 We need as constituents to hold our elected
14 representatives accountable. I personally will have
15 nothing to do with any elected official, and I will
16 work to unseat an elected official that votes for this
17 and supports it.

18 I personally have had the pleasure, if you can
19 call it that, of going up to Energy Solutions' backyard
20 in Clive and dumping off materials to go in their
21 facilities. And it is not a experience that you want.
22 It is nothing that we need to agitate to the south of
23 us.

24 And I do express appreciation to the chairlady,
25 and I'm very grateful to our good governor to allow us

1 to comment. The idea of other meetings being held
2 within the state where the citizens were not allowed to
3 express their opinion and to be carted off by officers
4 of the law to me is very repugnant. And I'm grateful
5 that we have a man of courage that can recognize the
6 tremendous injustice and would set this condition to
7 right, and I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER: I'm Dan Gibbons. I'm a 13 year
9 resident and working realtor for the full 13 years in
10 southern Utah. Real estate is a very emotional issue
11 as any of you who have ever had a broken pipe day after
12 you bought a house or a bad dishwasher.

13 One thing I learned in life is before you break
14 that bad news, besides criticism you want to bring
15 solutions. There is a few things that I'm curious
16 about. First of all, why none of the county
17 commissioners, the mayor or none of the city counsel --
18 it is Thursday, so there may be a counsel meeting --
19 but very, very upsetting to me that we elect these
20 people and they spend quite a bit of our money and they
21 are not here.

22 I mean every time we open a golf course, every
23 last one of them is in the front row. Isn't that true.
24 Now, I'd like before we do Divine Strake, there is a
25 beautiful comet that was out last week, the comet

1 McNaught. Go to statesweather.com and see it. It was
2 so fantastic. The comet was visible during the
3 daytime, and I hurt my eyes on Sunday looking for it.

4 One thing that really caught my mind is how
5 much dust there already is in the air here. Trying to
6 look up toward the corona of the sun, you can't see
7 through the dust. Likely these dangerous particles are
8 already in our air today. So we really are already at
9 risk in some ways. Now, we do need air quality
10 monitoring by the state down here, and we need better
11 enforcement not only against the Nevada Test Site but
12 against developers. Don't test my car, test the
13 contractors. In Vegas there is a hot line. You call.
14 They shutdown the work until the dust problem is
15 mitigated. We need that here and we need you to do it.

16 Now, you know there is a guy in University of
17 Nevada Las Vegas, he is a PhD. You know what he got
18 his PhD in? The Resuspending of Nevada Test Site Soils
19 in Dust Cesium 137 and Plutonium 138 and 139. Not one
20 person has contacted him about this. Not one. I
21 talked to him today because I said I was coming to the
22 meeting. He said, you know, Dan, it's strange. I did
23 my PhD on this. Not one elected official from Utah,
24 Idaho or Nevada has contacted me. Not the
25 representatives office. This guy got a PhD in this

1 stuff. He stung that in Los Alamos when he talked
2 about the resuspension of these dust particles. He is
3 a PhD and he's on staff of UNLV. Why haven't we hired
4 him as a consultant. I'm not kidding.

5 Now, I believe in the six degrees of
6 separation, even though it's a movie, many of you moved
7 here from somewhere else. Everybody knows a senator's
8 wife or congressman's wife or city counselor's wife.
9 Now is the time to use your relief society, your church
10 group, your girlfriends from the bridge club, send
11 these people a few links on this.

12 The easiest way to a man is through his wife,
13 okay. You know what, our senators don't have any pull.
14 This state has no pull, sorry. They're voting
15 Republican, they don't care. There is no pull. You
16 will see when we try to get the airport and the Lake
17 Powell pipeline. Democrats know you're going to vote
18 Republican, and they are not going to give you any
19 money. The money goes to the states where the seats
20 are contested.

21 Please don't talk to Hatch's wife, call Ted
22 Kennedy's wife. Does anybody know Mit Romney? Does
23 anybody in this room know Mit Romney? My gosh his name
24 is all over everything. Contact them. Contact his
25 wife. He's got some stake. He's knows Ted Kennedy.

1 All right. Those are the people we need to vote
2 against this.

3 Thirdly, the kids here, the most important
4 things you can do here in your life is seat belt your
5 kids in the car. Everybody took the greatest risk in
6 your life driving here. So we all have to adjust risk.

7 Now, finally, I'm here to talk about real
8 estate values. When I moved here in 1994, when you
9 looked for information on St. George, only two things
10 came up. It was really hot and it was real
11 contaminated. Now when the internet came, guess what
12 comes up when you look for St. George. Now it's 400
13 real estate websites, then golf courses, then maybe a
14 little bit about radiation.

15 So when I started real estate in '94, people
16 asked regularly, I just had a petroleum scientist from
17 Italy with a Geiger counter out to look at houses. It
18 was a little bit disturbing to me. I asked -- my
19 broker's daughter just had a contract cancel because
20 the people got facts online and said we are not going
21 to move there. They were buying a six hundred thousand
22 dollar house. So with six hundred thousand bucks, they
23 read. You don't get six hundred thousand dollars by
24 being poor.

25 Now, what's it going to do to real estate

1 values. One, who's going to check your house for
2 contamination. That's got to be expensive, huh. Then
3 once your house is contaminated, who is going to clean
4 it up? You know your insurance company does not pay.
5 Read your disclosures on radioactive contamination
6 through war or accidental detonation. Not covered.

7 Finally, what happens to you if your house is
8 contaminated? How much does it cost to clean it up and
9 who's going to do that. Do you know anybody that does
10 that? I mean to cleanup mold you're out sixty grand.
11 What does it cost to cleanup plutonium. And finally
12 would you want to live in your own house if you knew it
13 was contaminated. Would you want your kids there? I
14 mean this is going to open a can of worms. Anderson
15 Cooper and Shaun Hanniday will be broadcasting live
16 from Entrada if one house gets contaminated and shows
17 up hot. These people are smart and they are looking
18 for news.

19 Finally, who are the subcontractors in this
20 job? Does anybody know? The State of Utah and Idaho
21 should immediately stop all purchases from Raytheon,
22 GE, anyone what's providing parts for this bomb or for
23 this project. These subcontractors should be cut off
24 from government contracts within the state. That would
25 be a easy thing for the governor's office to do it

1 would not take an act of legislation. Say they are on
2 the banned suppliers list.

3 So please think carefully about it. Please
4 think about what you're doing now, and be smart. And
5 the most important thing is tell your friends with the
6 expensive homes, this can cost them big money, big
7 money. They'll listen.

8 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. Kris Brubaker
9 followed by Ilene Hacker.

10 SPEAKER: Hello, my name is Kris Brubaker. I'm
11 from St. George. I lived here for the past 18 years.
12 I'm presently getting ready to move to LA, so I'm going
13 to be safe. I didn't have to come here tonight. I'm
14 busy packing. But I've had friends die as Downwinders.
15 My father passed away at 64 because of a chemical he
16 used in the Korean Conflict. That was never a declared
17 war. I'm affected medically by what he was affected
18 with because anytime there is a toxic chemical, our
19 genetic material mutates and our common doctors believe
20 I've inherited a genetic mutation. I have an illness.
21 I've been on disability the past 20 years with an
22 illness called environmental illness. I'm extremely
23 sensitive to toxic chemicals.

24 I lived in the Las Vegas, Henderson area, ten
25 years before I moved here. And we could see from our

1 house every time they exploded a test at the test site.
2 The winds were -- they reported on the radio the winds
3 were always going towards St. George, and plumbs of
4 dust were always escaping into the environment. You
5 could see it. So don't tell me dust particles don't go
6 into the air. I've seen them with my own eyes. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. NIELSON: Ilene Hacker followed by Jim
9 Figuera.

10 SPEAKER: My name is Ilene Hacker. I have
11 lived here most of my life. My ancestors were the
12 first people sent here by Brigham Young to start the
13 cotton mission. I've grown up with Michelle watching
14 her mom put dots on pieces of paper because she drew
15 all the blocks around her house, Irma Thomas did. She
16 used to put little marks where everybody died of
17 cancer. And 29 years ago today the dot went to our
18 house for my father. And I'm standing here with his
19 little great grandson.

20 SPEAKER: Mason Miller.

21 SPEAKER: And I hadn't planned on coming here
22 tonight because honestly I think you don't get paid
23 enough for the abuse you take, really I don't. I used
24 to work in city government, so I really, really, really
25 appreciate you listening attentively to us because I

1 think you've been so gracious.

2 I knew that I would probably get emotional
3 because my dad, Arvil Wardle, was one of the most fun
4 people on the face of the earth. He was 48 years old
5 when he died. Michelle can verify this. He had one of
6 the greatest personalities. I'm here to pay honor to
7 him and tribute to by actually missing an episode of
8 Deal or No Deal or American Idol.

9 And I honestly in my heart believe that we're
10 just here having a nice visit with each other, because
11 in my heart of hearts I believe that they have already
12 made the decision, and what we say probably doesn't
13 matter. But it makes us feel good to come together and
14 feel like we're doing something, and maybe we are.

15 But I worked in government, and I know how
16 things operate. And honestly, the people that are like
17 her really do not get paid enough money for the abuse
18 that they put up with, because I used to be the first
19 person when they walked through the door, and I got
20 really good at taking abuse. But I want you to
21 remember the name of Arvil Wardle because he was a
22 great man. He died of adenocarcinoma, which is a
23 cancer caused by radiation fallout.

24 I had the beautiful and wonderful privilege of
25 spending two days at the Nevada Test Site being wined

1 and dined by the government and eating steaks and
2 having all the food that we wanted provided, with
3 beautiful buses to take us out there to see this lovely
4 Nevada Test Site. That is most amazing thing you've
5 ever seen in your life. How many of you have actually
6 had the privilege of seeing what it's like out there?
7 Looks like big craters out there.

8 SPEAKER: It's a brain wash.

9 SPEAKER: Big craters, but boy, those steaks
10 were good. They tasted so good. Our accommodations
11 were just absolutely beautiful, and they put on a good
12 show for us. And the point I'd like to make tonight is
13 that we have to remember all those that have gone
14 before us. Michelle's mom, my dad, all of our
15 neighbors. They are not just dots on a map, they are
16 people that really can make -- could have made a bigger
17 difference in the world, but their lives were cut
18 short. We need to speak up. And maybe it does no
19 good. A lot of times government makes up their mind
20 and they bring us here for a meeting, and you know, I
21 was waiting for the steaks, or free coupon to
22 Applebees, or something, and I thought the divine was
23 supposed to be something nice.

24 But we have to remember our next generation and
25 we have to remember those that are gone on before us.

1 And we have to do something about it. I'm not sure
2 exactly what to do, but I'm here to let you know that a
3 wonderful man was taken from us when I was just 25
4 years old, and he went very quickly.

5 Cancer is not something that's fun to watch
6 people die from. And radiation causes cancer. When
7 Michelle and I get together on the first Friday of
8 every month, we are with 11 or 12 of our classmates
9 that grew up with the phrase: Take a sip, swallow.
10 Did you grow up with that phrase? Take a sip, swallow,
11 as we were herded into little places by strange men to
12 see if we had goiters on our thyroids.

13 12 out of 12 of us have thyroid problems.
14 Michelle's problems started to become evident when we
15 were in drill team at Dixie High School. Almost all
16 have Hashimoto's Disease or Graves Disease, diseases we
17 didn't know that you could have.

18 My best friend's mother, Lois Iverson. She has
19 better things to do, she could have been watching Deal
20 or No Deal or an episode of American Idol, but we came
21 tonight to express to you and to this wonderful lady
22 here, that it's just got to stop. Thank you.

23 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. After Jim Figuera,
24 Edna Sampson.

25 SPEAKER: First of all, I'd like to thank

1 Governor Huntsman for giving us the opportunity to come
2 out here. The government wouldn't allow us to speak a
3 week ago to express how we feel. And I, like the lady
4 before me, am here to honor someone who has been a
5 Downwinder even though the government refused to
6 acknowledge the fact that someone standing up on Mormon
7 Mesa in 1961 could have possibly been a Downwinder
8 because they watched the blast.

9 It will be two years in May that we buried my
10 mom. She was 70 years old, and I watched her suffer
11 for over 40 years. She had five major cancer
12 surgeries, over 300 melanomas, and polycythemia, which
13 is a form of leukemia which was caused by radiation.

14 I can't believe that with all the research and
15 with all the people here the last week they kept saying
16 everything was acceptable, we were within limits. If
17 they are smart enough to figure that out, that tells me
18 that they have also got the knowledge to figure out
19 what they are doing with that blast on paper. Doesn't
20 have to go up into the air. It doesn't have to kill
21 people or maim people. What's the use. There is
22 absolutely no reason in my mind. All these limits they
23 say are acceptable, in my mind, zero is acceptable and
24 nothing more.

25 SPEAKER: My name is Edna Sampson, and I'm a

1 Downwinder, and I grew up in St. George, Utah. And I
2 was raising my children the same time Irma was raising
3 her family. And we were pretty fortunate in our
4 immediate family, but my mother passed away when she
5 was 45 years old. So we've lost a lot of young people
6 in this valley.

7 I wanted to say to Claudia Peterson that talked
8 about her little five-year-old daughter, she was in my
9 preschool, her five-year-old daughter, and she would
10 come to school with her wig on, but you know by the
11 time recess came, every kid in the class had tried on
12 her wig. It was something really. She was a beautiful
13 little child.

14 I have a doctor nephew that is a cancer doctor
15 in the mid west, and he recently moved to St. George.
16 And he said, all the time he was in the mid west for
17 maybe 20 years he didn't see one thyroid cancer.
18 Coming to St. George he has seen thyroid cancer.

19 I wanted to tell that man from Cedar City where
20 was he looking when the bombs went off, because when
21 the bomb would go off on the radio, they would say go
22 outside and wash your cars, wash our lawn down, get our
23 kids in and bring the clothes in off the line. And
24 we -- our cars were covered with white dust. Maybe
25 they didn't get them in that promised land of Cedar

1 City.

2 I visited Area 51 also. And it was talk about
3 a brain wash. It was really something. I want to say
4 one thing that the passion here tonight has really been
5 strong, and I'm sure all of you have felt this. And I
6 don't know how you're going to relay this to the
7 officials that need to know this because it doesn't
8 seem like it would come across with reading it or even
9 seeing it on video. You need to be here, and I'm sorry
10 they aren't here. Thank you.

11 MS. NIELSON: Jeannette Seegmiller.

12 SPEAKER: I know it's late, and I don't know I
13 can add a whole lot to what's been said. I really
14 appreciate the comments of the others. And I
15 personally hate public speaking. I'm here for one
16 reason. Sorry, but I love St. George. And I've done a
17 lot of research in the past on past tests. And I've
18 read about the devastating effects.

19 Lois Iverson is my neighbor, and I don't see
20 how we can stand back and let them do it to us again.
21 I love the United States of America, and I'm proud to
22 be an American. I always will be. I wouldn't choose
23 any other county to live in. But I don't think there
24 is anyway we can stand up and say, well, go ahead and
25 do it to us again. They lied to them before, and we

1 can't get around that fact. I may have this wrong, but
2 there is a quote that says something similar, the only
3 thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to
4 do nothing. And I'm not saying the government is evil,
5 but I think this test is very, very wrong because of
6 the devastating effects it could have on people around
7 us. And I just don't want that for me and for my
8 children for my friends and neighbors.

9 I want my children to be able to grow up here,
10 because I love it here. I will never know if my
11 grandfather or aunt and uncle died of that test. They
12 lived in Hurricane during the tests. They all died of
13 lung diseases. I worry about my mother everyday. I
14 worry about my husband's parents because I don't know
15 if they are going to have any of this. When I had a
16 friend in the same family that died of cancer, I just
17 don't think we can stand back and do nothing. And I
18 appreciate being able to say something. Thank you.

19 MS. NIELSON: Couple of minutes.

20 SPEAKER: Is the man still here that proposes
21 the test is a good thing to do? Well, I do have a few
22 facts. It's hard enough being emotional when you're
23 talking about a death of a member of a family and
24 difficulties that you suffered yourself. But if you'll
25 bear with me, I'll share a few facts. My wife and I

1 are -- we're from Salt Lake. I've researched program
2 project in 1997 ostensibly completed by 2003, but I
3 find it's an ongoing thing. And let me just share
4 something with you. There are four major radionuclides
5 that are in a fission explosion.

6 Now some people say, well, you have a fission
7 explosion. The problem with that you have to use the
8 fission trigger to make the fusion work. So you still
9 get these radionuclides CC-137, there is Iodine 131,
10 there is Strontium 90, and there are three particular
11 isotopes of Plutonium 238, 239 and 240.

12 And I want the characteristics of radiation and
13 fallout that occurred is that it's cumulating. And the
14 reason it's cumulating is because you have the standard
15 half lives are the period of time that the element is
16 undergoing a transformation. You have half lives that
17 run into many years.

18 I mean, just quickly. Iodine 131, this is a
19 very dangerous one for children because it gravitates
20 to the thyroid. When you speak of thyroid problems,
21 it's probably due to the iodine. But it only has an
22 eight day half life. Relatively short in that half
23 life. And particularly depending on how it gets into
24 the body's system, whether it's coming from the food
25 source or whether it's direct makes a difference on the

1 intensity of the radiation from that.

2 The other thing is CC-137, catch this, 30.07
3 years for a half life. Strontium 90, 28.79 years for
4 half life. Plutonium 238, 87.7 years; 239, 4,100
5 years. Isotope 240, 6,563 years.

6 All right. Now let me tell you what happened
7 in Strake. This is why it's kind of like deja vu
8 happening right now because the story we're getting
9 from the government people is the same story that we
10 were getting for those of us who went around the block
11 back in '49 and through the 1950s. And it's not
12 reliable.

13 And I'll give you a couple of examples, but
14 what happened with Salt Lake was that for a long time,
15 there is no dangerous fallout in Salt Lake. Well, let
16 me tell you, there were 42 shots that dropped fallout
17 on Salt Lake City. One of those, Zucchini shot,
18 Zucchini developed a hot spot that not only covered the
19 Salt Lake area but extended over into Colorado and into
20 Wyoming.

21 What happens with the fallout is that let's say
22 that you have an intensity of ten. There is a first
23 fallout. Now, you get a second shot, has an intensity
24 of 20, and within this half life period, then you're
25 going to get more intensity of 10 more than intensity

1 of 30, you're going to get upwards of 30 because of the
2 length of time involved and how these elements are
3 transformed.

4 MS. NIELSON: Can I ask you to wrap your
5 comments up. I'd be happy to accept additional written
6 comment.

7 SPEAKER: I shall do that. One other. I doubt
8 many of you are aware there was atomic testing at
9 Dugway Proving Ground, but well, we've got the idea.
10 Okay, well, anyway, the Dugway Proving Ground decided
11 to search out what was happening there. We went
12 through three rooms of material that we secured, or I
13 should say the Utah Health Services secured through the
14 Freedom of Information Act.

15 Now here's the kicker. In that batch of
16 material we went through all that, and the one gem came
17 out of it was this. There were minutes of a meeting
18 held in 1952 by the Chemical Corps of Engineers group
19 that were doing the testing at Dugway. In this meeting
20 that came out anyone exposed to full body gamma
21 radiation will have any disease enhanced. That's -- I
22 leave that thought with you.

23 SPEAKER: My name is Betsy Fillmore Vaught. I
24 grew up in Beaver. I buried my mother. And 20 years
25 after my mother's death, my sister developed lymphoma.

1 The insurance man questioning us, a preparation to
2 possibly do a stem cell to try to save her life. And
3 when we described our father's death, which had been
4 diagnosed as pancreatitis at the time, they said, oh
5 no, you have described a classic case of radiation
6 sickness.

7 I have buried my uncle. He died from bone and
8 prostate cancer. I have buried an aunt with colon
9 cancer. In July a cousin 20 years younger who they
10 were testing this past age they removed an eye. I have
11 a cousin who is dealing with breast cancer. She's
12 still alive.

13 My baby sister, 59, is at death's door in Cedar
14 City Hospital today. She's fought it for nine and a
15 half years. Maybe we'll get her a little longer, but
16 it will take her life.

17 When I came back to southern Utah to live in
18 the year 2000, I realized that in the years of the
19 testing, well, we were going to do our part in the cold
20 war, and we all did. There were a lot of farmers who
21 had kind of strange, quick deaths. And I don't know
22 any, but I suppose some of these strange quick deaths
23 were forms of radiation sickness. We will never know
24 because nobody ever took notice. I don't know what
25 happened. He was here today, gone tomorrow.

1 My father's death was 14 days from the time
2 they hospitalized him until he passed away, and he did
3 have some lifestyle habits that made the pancreatitis
4 seem reasonable. But let's just suppose for a moment
5 that we're not aware of a genetic predisposition among
6 the civilization of Utah. Maybe we do have a genetic
7 predisposition, but that's all the more reason not to
8 radiate us.

9 When I came back to Utah in the year 2000, I'd
10 been living in Memphis. The market of Memphis is
11 roughly a million and a half people, and I shopped at a
12 large Krogers store. And maybe once every six months I
13 would see a woman who I assumed was being treated for
14 breast cancer. Memphis is a major medical center for
15 the mid south. The patients come from Arkansas,
16 Tennessee, Mississippi, and Missouri.

17 The first week I lived here I went several
18 times to Harmons because I didn't have an icebox. When
19 it got time to fix a meal, I'd run down and buy
20 something. One day I had enough sense to look around
21 me, there were nine women without hair that I could see
22 from the cash register where I was paying for my
23 groceries. And I went home and I called my sister in
24 Cedar who had just come back from her first of a very
25 horrible visit to the Huntsman, and thank God for it,

1 and she said, you know, she said I know there are six
2 people in my area in Cedar City right now suffering
3 from Lymphoma, which is the form of cancer she is
4 dealing with.

5 Well, years have gone by. We now have a
6 predisposition apparently in our family for all sorts
7 of autoimmune diseases. I have two nieces with lupus,
8 I have a nephew with MS. And I'm not going to stand
9 here and say I know if they hadn't been radiated this
10 wouldn't have happened, you know. It's not the bomb's
11 fault. But in our family, because of the culture bias
12 to do ancestral records, we know from the last six
13 generations we've died from heart disease. Maybe we've
14 been drinking too many Cokes or we got too much
15 secondhand smoke. Maybe we didn't eat correctly. But
16 if we did all of those things and we now have a
17 pregenetic possibility of getting cancer, we don't need
18 the radiation for those reasons.

19 And the last bit of patience came about when my
20 cousin, who grew up in Beaver and his wife grew up in
21 Parowan, called me and said our daughter has lymphoma,
22 she's 17-years-old.

23 This is the third generation. And if all of
24 this testing and all of this radiation is the cause of
25 our poor health, in my family we're into the third

1 generation. Whether they drop another bomb or do
2 anything else, I don't want to see this test go on. I
3 don't want us to have a bunker buster nuclear warhead
4 that would then send my next door neighbor who's in
5 Iraq to go down in the bunker to see if they killed
6 somebody. That's two more deaths.

7 We don't want to talk to Syria. We don't want
8 to talk to Palestine. We don't want to talk to nobody.
9 We don't have all the answers. We've got to sit down
10 and learn how to live with each other. We cannot solve
11 our problems by saying who's got the biggest bomb.
12 Martin Luther King said violence begets violence. It
13 does not solve one single thing.

14 My sister and I no longer do Christmas gifts or
15 birthday gifts for each other. We buy books for
16 elementary schools in Beaver County. Not because that
17 would stop the bomb, but because Beaver county is a
18 very poor county. If we had spent the money that we've
19 spent Strake to improve the educational opportunities
20 for the children in that county, we would have more
21 than enough money no matter how many kids they had.

22 I kept her health records during her isolation
23 for stem cell, and I know what I'm talking about
24 because she was granted 50,000 dollars. Her husband
25 will never be out of debt. 50,000 dollars isn't enough

1 to buy the first three or four days of the treatment
2 that the medical profession uses to attempt to save a
3 life.

4 I don't know how we can put -- I don't know how
5 we can put a price on a human being. We're all going
6 to die from something. Cancer is a hard way to die.
7 So are a lot of other ways. But even having said that,
8 and I said that as a natural progression, there is also
9 something normal about having a mother and a father see
10 their children grow up, see their grandchildren mature,
11 see the values they taught them made sense, have time
12 to support their community.

13 In order to support just my immediate cancer
14 issues. I'm no longer really active in the community.
15 I have a house to keep beside my own and a sister to
16 keep, take care of and cousins that need help. I ought
17 to be over volunteering in schools here. I don't have
18 time because my sister needs me. And I'm not the only
19 one. I think my family is pretty typical.

20 I didn't want to come to St. George, but I
21 don't want them to blow it up anyway. And I beg you
22 all support Jim Matheson. He has fought this thing
23 alone. I asked him go to Washington. They are not
24 going to listen to me. Tell the governor he needs to
25 go.

1 We do not need to be a repository for every
2 piece of radioactive that exists and needs to be stored
3 someplace. Why can't these scientists find a way to
4 defuse the awfulness of radioactive material. I know
5 it goes on. They can't even shoot it out into the
6 atmosphere because we don't know what it's going to do.
7 But we don't need to make any more.

8 What else can we possibly need to know. There
9 is nothing left to know. We are going to look like
10 Mars if we keep going on this way. I have no more
11 right to life than an Afghani person or anybody else on
12 this planet. And we should not use our lands to air
13 our dirty linen. We are not thinking about what we
14 need to do to keep our country strong. We have to quit
15 worrying about I, I, I, and sit down and try to
16 reasonably come up with a solution that every person
17 can have as decent a life as possible.

18 Yes, death will come. Yes, some of it will be
19 awful, but no one has the right to rush that. And if
20 we can spend as much time dealing with a public
21 funeral, which I do not regret dealing with, I would
22 implore that in this country where we're sending and we
23 have now taken the lives of three thousand, I think
24 it's 3,028 men, but they come home not in the dark but
25 in the bright sunlight for wherever they have gone,

1 that's what we have to do and sit down and start
2 figuring out how we don't have the next one come home
3 dead or maimed. If we're really for the people, then
4 we have to be for all the people on this planet and
5 that's what we're talking about tonight.

6 I brought some things that have been part of
7 the public newspaper including Jim Matheson's
8 statement, and I ask that you include them in your
9 report.

10 MS. NIELSON: Thank you. I'd like to ask all
11 of you who are here to join me in giving Rory Johnson a
12 big hand. He is the individual who is doing the court
13 reporting. Thank you.

14 I want to thank you those of you who stayed to
15 this very end, but I particularly want to thank
16 everyone who came tonight for taking the time to make a
17 difference. Thank you.

18 (End of Public Hearing)

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1 STATE OF UTAH)
2) SS.
3 COUNTY OF WASHINGTON)

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5 I, RORY JOHNSON, Certified Court Reporter,
6 Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the
7 State of Utah, certify:

8 That the foregoing public hearing taken before me
9 pursuant to notice at the time and place therein set forth,

10 That the statements of the participants made at
11 the time of the hearing were recorded stenographically by me
12 and were thereafter transcribed to the best of my ability;

13 That the foregoing transcript is a true record of
14 the statements made by the participants at the time of the
15 hearing.

16 I further certify that I am not related to any
17 party to said issue nor in anywise interested in the outcome
18 thereof.

19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name and
20 affixed my seal this 26th day of January, 2007.

21

22

23

24 _____
25 RORY N. JOHNSON, RPR
Notary Public in and for
Washington County, State of Utah

My Commission Expires:

May 20, 2007

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